THE LIFE and DEATH OF MOTHER *SHIPTON*

Giving a wonderful Account of her ſtrange and monſtrous Birth, Life, Actions and Death, with the Correſpondence ſhe had with an evil Spirit; the many Pranks ſhe play'd; the Power ſhe had to Convey herſelf through the Air, raiſe Storms and Tempeſts, foretel Things to come; with all her *Propheſies* that have come to paſs, from the Reign of *Henry* VII. (in whoſe Time ſhe was Born, near *Dropping-well*, in *York-ſhire*) to this preſent Year 1697: Containing the moſt Important Paſſages of State, during the Reign of theſe Kings and Queens of *England* following, *viz.*

Henry the VIII.
Edward the VI.
Queen *Mary*,
Queen *Elizabeth*,
King *James* the I.
King *Charles* the I.
King *Charles* the II.
King *James* the II.
K. *William* Q. *Mary*.
And King *William* to this preſent Year, whom God long Preſerve.

With divers not yet come to paſs; foretelling or pointing at the Downfal, and humbling the Greatneſs of the preſent *French* King, with the Happineſs, Proſperity and Welfare of theſe Kingdoms, under His Majeſty's Proſperous and Succeſsful Reign, with the Explanation of each *Prophecy* and *Prediction*.

London: Printed by *W. Onley*, for *J. Back*, at the Sign of the *Black-boy*, on the middle of *London-bridge*, MDCXCVII.

THE PREFACE to the READER.

WOnder not, that We now present you with a Book of this Nature, when the Fame of Mother *Shipton* has been long known all over the three Kingdoms; but considering the former Accounts have been very small and imperfect, We have thought it necessary to be at the pains, to give you the fullest and best Character of so remarkable a Woman, that ever has yet appeared in Print, with a Catalogue of all Her Prophecies, and their Explanations; from the Reign of *Henry* VII, to this present Year 1697, which have, and are yet to come to pass, very curious and admirable; insomuch, that they have been noted and admired for their Veracity, by the most Learned Men of the Age; what She points at, having generally, as far is yet known, come to pass: But to sum up all, We recommend it as a Book very useful and delightful, and therefore, doubt not its Acceptance in the World.

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Life and Death of Mother *Shipton*.

CHAP. I. What her Father and Mother were, and what wonderful Things happened at her Birth, as also the Place of her Nativity.

IN the second year of King Henry the Seventh, which was in the year of our Lord One thousand four hundred eighty and six, there lived a Woman call'd Agatha Shipton, at a place call'd Naseborough, near the Dropping-well in York-shire: She came of poor Parentage, who dyed and left her to shift for herself, at the age of fifteen. After their decease, she still inhabited in the old house; but being now deprived of those helps she formerly enjoyed, conducible to a livelihood, she was constrained to seek relief from the Parish; which she did, but with so much regret and grief, that she seemed in her begging, rather to command alms, then in an humble manner to desire it. At length she arrived to that pass, that she was upon the matter starving, rather then she would be beholding to the charity of any. The Devil looking on her poverty to be great, and knowing her apt inclinations by her complexion (for you must understand, that the Devil is a great Schollar, well read in all things, and much acquainted with the constitutions of all sorts of Persons) I say, perceiving that she was willing to accept of any Proposition to change her condition; he one time, as she was sitting melancholly under a tree by a river-side, accosted her in the form of a very handsome young Man well apparell'd, with all things suitable to a youthful garb: Pretty Maid, (quoth he) why dost thou sit so sad? Thy age is too slender for thy head to be troubled with cares of the World; come tell me what is the matter, and if it lye within my power to assist thee (as I am sure it doth) thou shalt not want a Friend of me. Agatha casting up her eyes, and there seeing a face so lovely, could not suspect a Devil but in that comely shape; whereupon in a lamentable tone she express'd all that troubled her, informing him of her great Wants, and that knowing not how to

work, she could not provide what her necessities required: Pish (said the Devil) this is nothing, be ruled by me, and all shall be well. She told him she would; hereupon he ordered her to meet him at the same place the next day, and he would bring some Friends along with him, for he told her he resolved to marry her; she promised him she would, and accordingly they met. He came riding upon a stately horse, with a pillion behind for his Spouse, attended by a great many Gallants (as they appeared) well mounted, and in a noble Equipage.

His Devilship's Attendants soon conveyed his Mistress behind him, as she imagined; not in the least doubting the reality of what she saw. They needed neither switch nor spur to hasten them forward, the Jades were fiery enough of themselves, and ran with that swiftness that the wind could not overtake them in their full speed; soon they arrived at their journey's end, where seemed to be a very stately house with a great pair of gates, which at their approach opened by a Porter with his stick, in his livery-gown: Alighting, she went in, where she saw a great many Servants, which seemed at the sight of her and their Master, to shew much Respect and Obeisance.

Now did the Devil command rich garments to be brought, which she was immediately cloathed with, and being thus richly attired, she was ushered into a great hall, where was a long table furnished with all the varieties the whole World could afford; at the upper end of which table she was placed, next her the Friend, her intended Husband; all the rest of the Guests did place themselves as they thought fit. As they had the choicest cheer, so had they the best of wines, and sweetest music. Supper being ended, they fell to dancing; and now could my lecherous Devil stay no longer, but he must needs walk a coranto with his Mistress into another private room, and there courted her to lust; the simple Girl consented, and so they went to bed together, with the ceremonies of marriage. His touches (as she confessed to the Midwife that delivered her of her Infant) were as cold as ice or snow. After they had lain a little while together, he told her what he was, and what she must do hereafter, if she intended to live happy and long. First he told her that he was no Mortal, but a Spirit immaterial, and not burdened by a Body, nor hindered by any material thing, to that I can when I please pierce through the Earth and search its treasures, and bring what precious things I please from thence to bestow on those that serve me. I know all rare Arts and Sciences, and can teach them to whom I please. I can disturb the Element, stir up thunders and lightnings, destroy the best of things

which

which were created for the use of Man, and can appear in what shape or form I please. It will be too long to describe my power, or tell thee what I can do; but I will only tell thee what thou shalt do; that being done, I will give thee power to raise hails, tempests, with lightning and thunder; the winds shall be at thy command, and shall bear thee whither thou art willing to go, though never so far off, and shall bring thee back again when thou hast a mind to return. The hidden Treasures of the Earth shall be at thy disposal and pleasure, and nothing shall be wanting to compleat thy Happiness here. Thou shalt moreover, heal or kill whom thou pleasest; destroy or preserve either Man or beast; know what is past, and assuredly tell what is to come. Here note by the way, The Devil is a Liar from the beginning, and will promise more by ten millions, than he knows he is capable to perform, to the intent he may insnare and damn a Soul.

This poor ignorant Wretch easily believed what this grand Deceiver of Mankind told her; and being ravish'd with the thoughts of being so highly preferr'd, she condescended to all the Devil would have her to: whereupon he bid her say after him, in this manner: Raziel elimeham irammish ziragia Psonthon phanchia Rapheal elhaverunn tapinocambecaz mitzphecat jarid cumam hapheah Gabriel Heydonturris dungsonis philonomostarkes sophecord hankim. After she had repeated these words after him, he pluckt her by the grain, and there immediately grew a kind of tet, which he instantly sucks, telling her that must be his constant custom with her morning and evening; now did he bid her say after him again, Kemetzeatuph Odel Pharaz Tumbagin Gall Flemmegen Victow Denmarkeonto; having finisht his last hellish Speech, which the chiefest of his Minions understand not, out of which none but the Devil himself can pick out the meaning; I say, it thundred so horridly, that every clap seem'd as if the haulted roof of Heaven had cracht and was tumbling down on her head; and withal that stately Palace which she thought she had been in, vanisht in a trice; so did her sumptuous Apparel: and now her eyes being opened, she found herself in a dark dolesome wood; a place which from the Creation had scarce ever enjoyed the benefit of one single sun-beam. While she was thinking what course to steer in order to her return, two flaming fiery dragons appear'd before her tyed in a chariot, and as she was considering with herself what was best to be done, she insensibly was hurried into it, and with speed unimaginably conveyed through the air to her own poor cottage.

CHAP. II.

How the Devil constantly visited her, in what Forms and Shapes; what strange Things she did to those that offened her, harming some and making sport with others; and at length was brought to Bed of a Child, which is commonly called, Mother Shipton.

BEing come home, the Neighbours flock'd about her, having miss her two or three days, they wisely suspecting some mischief had befallen her; but when they beheld her face, they were all amazed, to see such a strange alteration in her countenance, in so short a time; and here the Proverb was verified in her: She lookt as if a Hagg had rid her. Before she met with this wanton Devil, she lokt plump and fresh, which were all the good qualities she had in her ill featured face; but now that red plumpness vanisht, and there was nothing to be seen but a pale chetteled skin on her cheeks, which for want of flesh seemed to fall in her mouth, to be devoured by her hunger-starved jaws. Those about her which were charitable minded, pitied her, comforted and gave her monies, which with a great deal of disdain and scorn she threw them, saying, She wanted not, nor stood in need of their Alms; for, Look ye here (said she) is mony enough; plucking her hand out of her pocket; the People drawing near her, discovered that what was in her hands was nothing else but some Apin-leaves: and notwithstanding, they endeavoured to perswade her that she was mistaken in supposing that to be mony, yet would she not believe them; so strong a power the Devil had gotten over her already.

In fine, she did bid them all be gone, for now she began to take little delight in Humane Society: it was not long that they had left her, before the Devil (with whom she had made a hellish Contract) came in to see her, in the same handsome young form as he first appeared unto her, telling her, that he came to supply the company of those she had wisely dismist, that she needed not the Society of Humane Creatures, for he would not fail to be constantly with her; always bringing with him what should not only serve for a bare livelihood, but her delight, pleasure and satisfaction. Hereupon, by the Devil's command, there instantly appeared, Hennings, a compleat noise of musick, with dishes of meat, great variety of the choicest and most pleasing sort: which so ravished Agatha, that she fell to the ground in a very profound and deep trance. One of her Neighbours coming in this while, wondered to

commiseration, she kneeled down, and having crost herself, and said a short prayer, she endeavoured to waken Agatha, but using what means she could, it all signified nothing; she shook and pincht her, and pulled her by the nose, yet still she lay insensible: This Neighbouring Woman being strangly amazed and scared hereat, ran out amongst the rest of her Neighbours crying out, that poor Agatha Shipton was suddainly struck dead; and so desired them to go into the house with her, and they should there be the Eye-witnesses of the truth thereof; whereupon several went and found what this Woman had said to be seemingly true; but one wiser then the rest stoped down and perceiving that she breathed, speak aloud, Friends, ye are all mistaken, Agatha is not dead, but in a trance, or else she is bewitched; she had scarce uttered these words before Agatha began to stir; and soon after rasled herself on her leggs, crying out, in a very distracted tone, What make ye here, vile Wretches? Cannot I enjoy my pleasures, but ye must be eves-dropping? get ye gone, as having nothing to do here; and hereupon she fell a dancing, which they wondered at, because they could here no musick; at length Agatha turning about, and seeing they were not gone, said, If ye are resolved thus to disturb me, and will not go, I will make ye. This some thing affrighted them, for they now verily believed she was a Witch; and as they were hasting away with all imaginable speed, a sudden strong wind hoisted them a great height into the air, falling all to the ground again without the least harm, only some shame to the Women, for they discended with their heads downwards, their coats over their ears, their lower parts appearing all naked to the astonished Spectators; the Men were seen like abergrown goats with large horns on their heads, and Women riding on their backs, which sights as they produced inexpressible wonder, so amidst their amazement, they could not but burst out into excessive laughter.

This wonderful and unexpected exploit, was instantly noised all about the Country, which occasioned a great resort of People to the place where Agatha lived; which so perplext her by their undesired visits, that she resolved within herself to be revenged on some of them which by the Devil's help she effected; mischieving some in their persons, others in their cattel, and others in their credits; one had a horse that dyed suddenly, and being opened, there was found in his stomack fish-hooks, and hair, instead of hay and oats. Another going to sit down at Table with Persons of good quality at dinner-time, and thinking himself very spruce and fine, had in an instant his Rusle

pull'd off, and the seat of an House of Office clapt on in its place, he that sat next him breaking out into a great laughter at the sight thereof, was served little better; for his Hart was invisibly conveyed away, and a Pan of a Close-stool which stood in the next Room, put on instead thereof: A modest young Gentlewoman which did sit at the Table at that time, on no other errand but to see this young Witch which was so much talked of; looking on these two worthy spectacles of laughter, endeavouring all she could to refrain laughing, but could not, and withal continued farting for above a quarter of an hour; this made them all laugh so extreamly that the Master of the House was alarum'd (below) therewith, and being desirous to share with his Guests in their Mirth, came running up stairs as fast as his legs would carry him, about to enter the door, he could not, and no wonder, since the oldest Man living, never saw a larger pair of horns then he had on his Head: Whilst they were gazing one on another as more then half distracted, they were all reduced to the same condition they were in before; after which three followed a noise, as if an hundred persons where laughing together, but nothing at all was seen.

These persons fearing something worse might befal them if they staid any longer, made all the haste they could to be gone: Agatha knowing their intent, resolved to take her farwel of them, by serving them one trick more which was thus: as they were about to mount on Horse-back, they were pelted with rotten Apples, Dung, and stuff that smelt worse than can be imagined. As they rid through the Town, such Men as thought they rid singly, were all observed to have behind them a deformed old Woman; and as their Faces differ'd all one from another, so did their habits which were all tatter'd and ragged, and patcht with a hundred colours, fear, shame, and the hooting of the People made them put spurs to their Horses, neither did they forbear the Switch, nor any thing that may add speed to their Horses heels, so that it may be said, they rather flew then rode, how could it be otherwise? For needs must he go whom the Devil drives.

Coming home, they declare what wonderful things they had seen performed, though by a young one, yet as they believed the greatest Witch in the World: this news being so generally spred, came at length to the ear of the Justices, who now thought it high time to question and bring into examination a person that was so much talked of, and might let alone, do greater mischief.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

How Agatha Shipton was Apprehended and brought before a Justice, what her Confession was, her Mittimus being made to be sent to Prison; how she escaped by the help of her Friend, the Fiend; she is retaken, and being found with Child, is Bail'd.

AGatha is now no longer Suspected, but plainly known to be a Witch, doing something or other daily which is very remarkable; she hath been frequently observed to walk alone muttering to herself, and having been watcht by some, they have seen her stamp upon the ground thrice, then wound her hands over her head: lastly, she spake one word thrice, and in the twinkling of an eye, the sky hath been dark, and gloomy, though clear before, which belcht out nothing, for half an hour, but flames, thundring after a hideous manner:

But now the time draws on, wherein she must give an account for what she hath done, and in order thereunto, she is apprehended by two resolute Fellows who were not a whit daunted when they entred the house, though toads, adders, and such-like noisome creatures crawled up and down the house, but could not chuse but be much startled when they seiz'd her, and were carrying her, to hear such a terrible crack of thunder, the house at that time reeling too and fro like a cradle.

However they carryed her before the Justice, where being brought she was strictly examined by him; she not a jot daunted, told him that she had more authority then he, and that notwithstanding his power, she could command one that could over-rule him when he list; that she was a Princess, and could have at her beck a thousand Spirits of the air, and as many of the earth and water, that she could raise a tempest presently, that should overturn his house about his ears; and that you may know, it lies not in your power to detain me, three words shall procure my liberty: hereupon she said, Updraxi, call Stygicon Helluox, she had not scarce uttered the last word, before there came in a horrid winged Dragon, which immediately took her up, and carried her away from the amazed Justice and Attendents about him, half dead with fear.

This so affrighted all that heard of it, that none would undertake to meddle with her more; so that she had a considerable time of respite; But she now began to be more admired than before, being discovered by the great swelling of her belly, to be with Child: The people could not tell what to think, or who should be the Father, concluding

that none would be so vile and wicked, as to have copulation with a Devil incarnate; neither could they believe a Spirit had either desire or power, to generate with any humane Creature; while People were generally passing their verdicts on Agatha, she was once more taken and brought before a Justice, and amongst other questions, was asked whither she was with Child, she acknowledged it; nay further, that it was begot by no mortal Wight: The Justice gave no credit to what she said, as looking on her, as an ignorant seduced Woman; and so askt her what Bail she could produce, intending to defer the business till she was delivered; in this very nick of time, two Gentlemen as they appeared by their habits, voluntarily proffered themselves, which as soon as accepted for Bail, vanish'd presently, however Agatha had permission to go home.

CHAP. IV.

What kind of shape Mother Shipton had when she was born; how she was put to nurse at the charge of the Parish; and what strange things were seen in that House where she was nurst, during the time of four Years.

The usual time of forty weeks being expired, her Mother, after many strange and horrible torments which she underwent in her travail, was at last delivered (by the rare skill and industry of her Midwife, and others of that Sex) of her which is now called Mother Shipton, which proved the conclusion of her miserable life. But her entry into the World was such a terror to all that beheld her, that several credible Persons then present, have several times confest that they never beheld the like: such strange and horrible noises, that the Persons concern'd about her, could scarce find so much courage in themselves as to continue in the place where she was, much less when they, beheld the strange and unparallel'd physiognomy of the Child, which was so mishapen, that it is altogether impossible to express it fully in words, or the most ingenious to limn her in colours, though many Persons of eminent qualifications in that Art have often attempted it, but without any success; and therefore according to the best observations of her, take this true, though not full account of her features, and body: she was of an indifferent height, but very morose and big-bon'd, her head very long, with very great goggling, but sharp and fiery eyes, her nose of an incredible and unproportionable length, having in it many crooks and turnings, adorned with many strange pimples of divers colours,

colours, as red, blew, and mixt, which like vapours of brimstone gave such a lustre to her affrighted Spectators in the dead time of the night, that one of them confessed severall times in my hearing, that her nurse needed no other light to assist her in the performance of her duty; her cheeks were of a black swarthy complexion, much like a mixture of black and yellow jaundies, wrinkled, shrivelled, and very hollow; insomuch, that as the ribs of her body, so the impression of her Teeth were easily to be discerned, through both sides of her face, answering one side to the other, like the notches in a bully, excepting only two of them which stood quiet out of her mouth in imitation of the tushes of a wild boar, or the teeth of an elephant, a thing so strange in an Infant, that no age can parallel; her chin was of the same complexion as her face, turning up towards her mouth, shreeks being heard, from an unknown cause, as if there had been a more than an ordinary correspondence between her teeth and it; her neck so strangly distorted, that her right shoulder was forced to be a supporter to her head, it being propt up by the help of her chin, in such sort, that the right side of her body stood much lower then the left, like the reeling of a ship that sails with a side wind: again, her left side was quite turned the contrary way, as if her body had been screwd together piece after piece, and not rightly placed; her left shoulder hanging just perpendicular to her fundament; her leggs very crooked and mishapen, the toes of her feet looking towards her left side; so that it was very hard for any Person (could she have stood up) to guess which road she intended to steer her course, because she never could look that way she resolved to go.

After she had remained under the care of her nurse, for the space of a Month or thereabouts, her Mother being unable to provide for her, she was put out to nurse at the charge of the Parish, to a poor Woman hard by in the Town, where she continued for the space of half a year or thereabouts, the house not being any wales disturbed at all, till at last her Nurse having been abroad amongst some of the chief of the Parishoners, either to procure something of their charity for her subsistance, and the maintainance of her Family, or else to fetch her mony from the Overseers of the Poor for nursing the Child; and returning home to her house, she found her doors unbard and wide open, whereat she much amazed and affrighted, ran to her next Neighbour, and acquainted her that she was quite undone, for her house was broken open & robbed; the Man immediately riseth from his dinner, carrying his bread and cheese in his hand, accompained with his Wife and another labouring

Man; approaching the door, endavoured to enter, but before they could all get quite in, there was immediately a very strange noise heard in the next room to them, as if it had been a consort of cats, which so affrighted them, that they all run towards the door endeavouring to get out again, but it was in vain; for at their approach there were great long yoaks about their necks, in the form of a cross, or turned stile; so that they could not possibly return; and while they were thus striving and crying out for help, their yoaks at last fell off, and a coule-staff, or Brewers-sling laid upon the Mens shoulders; upon which an old woman presented her self Naked, sometimes hanging by the Heels, sometimes by the Toes, anon by the Middle; with divers other postures, they continuing for the space of half an hour, in such sort, that the poor Men were never more tired in clearing of Leggs nor less pleased at any thing than in being constrained to humour this piece of hellish activity.

After they had got a discharge from this their new employment, the house now being quiet, and they a little recovered their sences, and missing the Women, they ran further into the house, where at last they found them lying flat upon their bellies, their cloaths being turned backwards over their heads, two great black catts were playing Hocus Pocus upon their posteriers, which the Men in vain attempted to drive away until at last their own slavery procured the Womens freedom from that employment, though they changed not much for the better; for as they were coming out of that room, in the next there stood a pair of parwingles, made in the form of a cross, upon which Women use to put great skains of parn, that so they may wind it off with more ease and less trouble: these being placed in the middle of the room, the two Men and two Women were forced to take the four ends thereof in their hands, and so daunce round about the room one after another, until such time as they were almost tired to death carrying upon every one of their shoulders an Imp in the likeness of a monkey or ape, which hung close upon them; and when ever they slackned their pace, these Spirits pricked them forward, continuing this recreation for a very considerable time; and being cloy'd with this kind of diversion they vanish quite out of sight, leaving these poor Wretches as weary as astonished; (notwithstanding) no sooner perceived themselves at liberty, but they presently quitted the house, and soon after addressed themselves to several of the Neighbourhood, acquainting them with what had happened, which caused great amazement amongst them, and immediately the whole Town was in an uproar; and the Minister and

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several of the most eminent Inhabitants, consulted together what the accasion thereof should be, and what to do in the business, some of them threatning the Informer, others thinking they were distracted: But at last they resolved to go to the house; yet when they came near, there arose a great dispute amongst them who should first enter, which at last was agreed upon, and the Parson (with his Congregation attending him in the rear) gave them the first entry, and entring the door quivering and shaking, they heard the Nurse child cry in a most hideous and doleful manner; whereupon there was suddenly a noise like the treading of People upon stones, though the house in any place had no other then an earthen floor; at which the Child ceased, and a very sweet musical harmony of several notes was heard, and all present-ly vanished again: after which the Minister and Inhabitants entring and searching the house, and at length missing the Child, one of them looking up the Chimney, saw the cradle wonderfully hanging about three yards high without any support; which being as strangely conveyed down again: they encouraged the Nurse, and leaving her in the house (though affrighted) they departed for the present.

CHAP. V.

How Mother Shipton, whilst but very young at nurse, was daily visited by Spirits, in divers shapes and forms; and what Pranks they play'd during her abode there.

MOther Shipton now grew apace, and as her stature encreased so did her deformity, her supposed Father (the foul Fiend) omitted not a day wherein he visited not the house where she was, sometimes visibly in the form of a cat, dog, bat, or hog; at other times invisibly by noises so terrible, as it so affrighted the Nurse, that she oftentimes resolved to deliver up her charge, and forsake her habitation; sometimes, she came in a pleasant humour, either singing or playing on an instrument, which was usually a scotch bag-pipe.

Her Nurse sometimes was in great perplexity, not knowing what was become of her, for an whole day together; but when she was in her greatest search after her, she saw her oftentimes drop through the Roof of the House: going out, upon her return, she many times found her Child stretcht out to a prodigious length, taller then the tallest living, and at other times as much decreast or shortned. The poor Woman's work for the major part, was only to recount what their Spirits disordered about her house; the chairs and stools would frequently

quently march up stairs and down, and they usually plaid below at bowls with the trenchers and dishes: going to dinner, the meat was removed before she could touch a bit of it, which things, as they much troubled the Nurse, so they gave much satisfaction to Mother Shipton, as it appeared by her monstrous smiles; now and then to pacifie her Nurse when she saw her much vext hereat, she would say, Be contented, there is nothing here will harm you.

To be short, the Nurse was so continually terrified by these Apparitions, that she resolved to complain to the Parish; and having made known the truth of what had past, in commiseration to the Woman almost distracted, they removed Mother Shipton to another place, where she was put to school, being of an age now fitting for it.

CHAP. VI.

How Mother Shipton was put to School, learning more in a day, then other Children in a month; how she was jeared by her Schoolfellows, for having such a monstrous long Nose; and what Pranks she plaid upon them, by way of Revenge, growing now very famous.

MOther Shipton was now grown a lusty Girl, and as she was left to the care of the Parish, so the Parish took care that she should have the common sort of learning; that is to say, reading and writing bestowed upon her. Coming to school, her mistris began to instruct her as other Children, begining with the Criss-cross-row as they call'd it, showing and naming only three or four letters at first; but to the amazement and astonishment of her Mistris, she exactly pronounced every letter in the alphabet without teaching. Hereupon her Mistris shewed her a primmer, which she read as well at first sight, as any in the school, and so proceeded in any book was shown her.

As this produced wonder in her School-mistris, so hatred and envy in her Comrades; some flouted her for her monstrous long nose, others endeavoured to beat her, and all strove to mischief her, but she valued them not, revenging herself upon every one of them, that intended her harm. Some were pinch'd and no hand seen that did it; others were struck speechless when they were about to say their lessons, not being able to utter a word; and none escaped from being serbed one scurby trick, or other. This so inraged the Parents of these Children looking on Mother Shipton the sole cause hereof, that she was discharged the school, and so left to the wide World.

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She hath been often seen, when alone, to laugh heartily; at other times to talk by herself, uttering very strange riddles, which occasioned some of the more sober sort to converse with her, receiving such strange things from her, as required a long study to find out the meaning.

Never a day passed, wherein she related not something very remarkable, and required the most serious consideration. And now it was that People flockt to her far and near, (her fame was so great) to be resolved of their doubts, all returning wonderfully satisfied in the resolution of their questions.

CHAP. VII.

How several Persons came to Mother Shipton, for her Predictions; and how a Rich Heir, being deceived by her Maid, fell sick of Grief, and died.

AT now Mother Shipton beginning to grow famous in the World, for her notable judgment in things to come: There resorted to her house a number of People, of all sorts, both old and young, rich and poor; especially, of the Female-sex, viz. Young Maids and Wenches, who have always a great itching desire to know when they shall be married; as also, what manner of Husbands they shall have; to which she gave such satisfactory answers, both for the Persons and time that no sooner could a young Maid get into the teens, but she could presently trot to Mother Shipton's, to be resolved of her doubt. Now, though she were not mercenary herself, but refused great gifts, when proffered unto her; yet did she keep a young Wench, who rather then fail, if they forgat to open their purse to her, she would remember to open her mouth to them, and tell them, that her Dame, Shipton, nor she, could not be maintained with thanks, but that the belly required meat to feed it and that it was money which made the mare to go. One Day there came a certain young Heir thither, whose Father was sick, to be resolved by her, whether he should live or dye; but Mother Shipton, could by no means be wrought upon to tell him any thing; whereupon he proffered the Maid great store of money, if she could by any means perswade her Dame to fulfil his request: The Wench being greedy of mony, promised him fair, and that if he would come the next morning, he should be certain to be resolved; in the mean time, she importuned her Dame with the most cunning rhetorick that she could invent; but she was deaf to all intreaties, and would by

no means be induced thereto; whereupon the Wench resolved with herself, rather than to loose the money, to give him an answer of her own intention; which the next Morning we perceived in these words:

The grave prepared hath a room;
Prepare for Death, thy Hour is come.

The young Gentleman having received this answer, went home joyfully, hoping presently to reap the golden crop which his Father had sown, and to be in an instant, possessed of all his vast estate, but the sequel proved quite contrary; for by that time he came home, great hopes of amendment appeared in his Father, who each day grew better and better, so that in a short time he became perfectly well. This unexpected recovery of the old Man, struck such a dump in our young Heir that he presently took his bed, fell extream sick, and in a short time grew extraordinary ill, that all the symptoms of a dying Man appeared in him: The old Man, who had carped and cared all his life time for his Son, (having no more Children but he) was very desirous of his life, and to know whether he should recover; whereupon he sent to Mother Shipton about the same, who knowing by her Art, what her Maid had done, sufficiently did chide her for the same; threatning upon such another offence, to turn her out of her service. In the mean time the Messenger was come to her house, who having delivered his errand, was turned back with this answer.

For others deaths who do gape out,
Their own, unlook't for, comes about;
Earth he did seek, e're long shall have
Of earth his fill, within his grave.

The old Man having received his answer, was much troubled: as thinking his own death predicted thereby, not imagining in the least, what his Son had done; but he was soon quit of that suspicion, for within two days the young Man dyed; when by a Servant (who knew the passages) he was informed the truth of the whole matter.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

Mother Shipton's Propheſies concerning King Henry the Eighth's Journey into France, of Cardinal Wolſey, and other Things.

ABout this time, ſome differences ariſing betwixt King Henry the Eight, and the French King, great preparations of War were made in England, the drums beating in every County, to ſummon Voluntary Valour to expreſs itſelf, in defence of their King and Country, many heroick Spirits, who made honour their aim, not dreading any dangers for the attaining thereof, now liſted themſelves Bellona's Followers; ſo many appearing under Mars his banner, that he who was furniſhed with limbs and an eſtate, to decline the ſervice was adjudged a Coward. There was then living in the North, a young Heir, who was newly come to his Eſtate, one whoſe tongue was all fire, and his heart all ice, who would kill thouſands with words, but durſt not adventure to do any thing in deeds. This Gallant being by ſome of his Equals, pricked on to make his appearance in the Fields of Mars, and not to lye ſleeping at home when Fame ſummoned him forth to action, he knew not what to do in this caſe; loath was he to loſe his loved life, and yet the aſperſion of a Coward himſelf, is of all things moſt odious; he therefore promiſed them fair, that none ſhould be more willing then he, to ſpend his blood in the quarrel of that Country, from whence he received his deareſt life; but yet reſolved with himſelf, not to ſet one ſtep forward in that path of danger, till he had firſt conſulted with Mother Shipton, concerning what ſucceſs he ſhould have in his journey; if bad, he was reſolved by a feigned ſickneſs to evade, thinking it no policy for a Man to part away with that life in an inſtant, which with great toil and care, had been many years in bringing up.

Hereupon he haſtens to our Northern Prophetreſs, acquaints her with his condition, and very earneſtly requeſts of her (as ſhe to whom nothing was unhid) that ſhe would unfold to him whether good or bad Fortune ſhould be his attendant, in this his expedition. Mother Shipton though ſhe perceived his cheapneſs courage to be every way unanſwerable to that of a Souldier, yet foreknowing what would come to paſs, returned him this anſwer which without more ado, fully ſatisfied him to proceed, and perform what he had promiſed; the anſwer was this,

When the Engliſh Lyon ſhall ſet his paw on the Gallique Shore, then ſhall the Lillies begin to drop for fear there ſhall be much weeping

and wailing amongst the Ladies of that Country; because the Princely Eagle shall joyn with the Lyon to tread down all that shall oppose them, and though many Sagitaries shall appear in defence of the Lillies, yet shall they not prevail; because the dull Animal of the North shall put them to confusion; and though it be against his will, yet shall cause great shame unto them. Now shall the Mitred Peacock first begin to plume, whose Train shall make a great show in the World for a time; but shall afterwards vanish away, and his great Honour come to nothing which shall take its end at Kingston.

The Explanation of the Prophecy.

By the English Lyon was meant the King of England; and by setting his Paw on the Gallique Shore, the Landing of his Army in France, which not long after he did; by the Lillies beginning to drop for fear, was signified the great trouble and perplexity of the French, the Lillies being the Arms of France; the weeping and wailing amongst the Ladies of that Country, denotes the miseries and destructions incident to War, the Sword, Famine, Destruction and Desolation being inseperable Companions; by the Princely Eagle joyning with the Lyon, and treading down all that should oppose them, is meant Maximilian the German Emperor (whose Arms were the Eagle) who not only joyned in Amity with King Henry; but also took Wages of him, and served him in his Wars as an hired Souldier; by the Sagitaries that appeared in defence of the Lillies, was meant the French Cavalry, the chief strength of France, consisting of Horse-men, who appearing like Sagitaries, that is to say, half Men and half Horses, gave Mother Shipton to use that expression; whereas it is said, yet they should not prevail, it fell out so accordingly; for notwithstanding all the oppositions of the French Armies, King Henry proceeded on vigorously, conquering and taking several Towns of importance, as Tourney, Bulloign, &c. But to come to that which most nearly concerns the matter, viz. the success of our young Heir, in this expedition, which was hinted forth unto him in these words, Because the dull Animal of the North shall put them to Confusion; and though it be against his will, yet shall cause great shame unto them; by the dull Animal of the North, was meant this fresh-water Souldier, who according to the Prophecy, put the French-men to confusion, and great shame; for passing the Seas with King Henry, being mounted on a stately Horse, as both Armies confronted each other, he being in the

head

head of the Battle, just before the Charge, Somebody striking his Horse, the Jade carried him by force upon the Enemy, with such violence, as put their Front into some disorder, which being perceived by our Men, they presently so seconded him, that in fine, the French very fairly ran away leaving the English a glorious Victory purchased with a little cost. By this means was Mother Shipton's Prediction fulfilled to the Disgrace of the French, and great Praise of the young Gallant; for the rest of the Prophecy, the interpretation thereof runs thus: By the Mitred Peacock was intended Cardinal Wolsey, signified by that Bird, because of his great Pride, who being but a poor Butcher's Son of Ipswich in Suffolk, grew to such height, that he thought himself Superior to the chief Nobles of the Land, living in such splendor as not to be parralel'd, according to the Prophecy, Whose Train shall make a great show in the World; and whereas it is said, the peacock shall then begin to plume, so it was, that when King Henry had taken the City of Tourney, in France, he made Wolsey, Bishop thereof, who soon after rose to the highest degree of Honour a Subject could be capable of, which afterwards (as the Prophecy says,) Vanished away, and his great Honour come to nothing. And lastly, whereas it is said, he should have his end at Kingstone; the Cardinal being told of this Prophecy, would never pass through the Town of Kingstone, though lying directly in the road, from his own House to the Court, but afterwards being arrested of High Treason, by the Earl of Northumberland, and Sir Anthony Kingstone, the Lieutenant of the Tower, sent unto him his very Name (remembring this Prophesie) which struck such a terror to his heart, that he soon after expired.

CHAP. IX.

Her Prophecy to the Abbot of Beverly, concerning the downfal of Abbies Nunneries, Priories, &c. with other things.

MOther Shipton's Predictions coming thus effectually to pass, spread her Fame far wider then it was; insomuch, that many who before looked upon her as a crack-brain'd Woman, now began to admire her, and to esteem of her words as Oracles. And as the nature of English People is, rather to desire to know what is to come, then to seek to rectifie what is done amiss; so the greatest part of her Visitants, came only to be resolved of what she knew would come to pass; of which number was the Abbot of Beverly, who fearing the downfal of Religious Houses, and a change of Religion then professed, putting on the coun-

counterfeit cloaths of a Lay-person, he came to Mother Shipton's, and knocking at the door, she being within, called to him, and said, Come in Mr. Abbot, for you are not so much disguised but the Fox may be seen through the Sheep's skin; it is not those cloaths makes you a Lay-person, no more then a long gown, makes a Man a Lawyer; come, take a stool and sit down, for you shall not go away unsatisfied of what you desire: and thereupon she began to utter forth her Prophesies in this sort:

When the Cow doth ride the Bull,
Then Priest beware thy Scull.
And when the lower Shrubs do fall,
The great Trees quickly follow shall.
The Mitred Peacock's lofty pride,
Shall to his Master be a Guide.
And one great Court to pass shall bring,
What was ne'er done by any King.
The Poor shall grieve to see that Day,
And who did Feast must Fast and Pray.
Fate so decreed their Overthrow,
Riches brought Pride, and Pride brought Woe.

These Prophesies were thus explained: by the Cow was meant King Henry, who gave the same, by reason of the Earldom of Richmond, which was his Inheritance: and the Bull betokeneth Mrs. Anne Bulloign, whom the King took to Wife, in the room of Queen Katharine; her Father gave the Black Bull's head in his Cognizance, and was his Beast; and when the King had married Queen Anne, then was fulfilled the second line of the Prophesy, viz. Then Priest beware thy Scull; for what a number of Priests, Religious and Secular, lost their heads for offending of those Laws made to bring this matter to pass:

And when the lower Shrubs do fall,
The great Trees quickly follow shall.
The Mitred Peacock's lofty pride,
Shall to his Master be a Guide.

Cardinal Wolsey (who is here intended by the Mitred Peacock) in the height of his pride, and haltiness of his undertaking, intending

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to erect two fair Colledges one at Ipſwich, where he was Born, the other at Oxford, where he was Bred; and finding himſelf unable to endow them at his own charges, he obtained Licenſe of Pope Clement the Seventh, Anno 1525, to ſuppreſs forty ſmall Monaſteries in England, and to lay their old Lands to his new Foundations, which was done accordingly, and the poor People that lived in them, turned out of doors; many of the Clergy were very much againſt this action of Wolſey's, eſpecially John Fiſher, Biſhop of Rocheſter, alledging for the ſame an Apology out of Æſop, That the Iron Head of the Axe, craved a handle of the Wood of Oaks, only to cut off the ſeer boughs of the Tree; but when it was a compleat inſtrumental Axe, it felled all the Wood Applying it, That the Suppreſſing of thoſe ſmaller Houſes would in fine, prove deſtructive to all the reſt. Which came to paſs accordingly; for King Henry ſeing the Cardinal's power to extend ſo far as to ſuppreſs theſe lower Shrubs, he thought his Prerogative might ſtretch ſo far, as to fell down the great Trees; and ſoon after diſſolved the Priory of Chriſt's Church, nigh Aldgate, in London, now known by the name of Duke's Place; and which was the richeſt in Lands and Ornaments of all the Priories in London or Middleſex; and which was a fore-runner of the diſſolution of all the reſt, and which not long after came to paſs:

And one great Court to paſs ſhall bring,
What was ne'r done by any King.

By the Great Court, is meant the Parliament, the Supreameſt Court of England; who in the twenty ſeventh of King Henry's Reign, Anno 1539, to ſupport the King's States, and ſupply his Wants, conferred on the Crown, all Religious Houſes, which were not able clearly to expend above two hundred pounds a year; the great ones not long after following the ſame fortune of the ſmaller, which was never done (though) attempted by any King before.

The Poor ſhall Grieve to ſee that day.

The Abbots and Priors being moſt bountiful Houſe-keepers, relieving all Comers and Goers, got themſelves much reputation for their Hoſpitality.

And who did Feaſt, muſt Faſt and Pray.

By the Dissolution of these Houses, many thousands were driven to seek their Fortunes in the wide World, and became utterly exposed to want, when Monkish profession was without possession; many a young Nun proved an old Beggar, and were forced to fast for want of victuals, who formerly had it provided for them to their hand.

Fate so decreed their Overthrow;
Riches brought Pride, and Pride brought Woe.

The great riches and pride of the Monks and Fryers was (no doubt) the main cause of their overthrow; for whatsoever was the pretence, questionless profit was the rope which pulled these Religious Houses down.

All these things coming to pass before such time as this Abbot dyed, caused him to have a great esteem of Mother Shipton, and to value her Prophecies more then ordinary Conjectures; though at the first, he could not tell what to make of her ambiguous Lines, which like the Oracles formerly delivered at Delphos, rather brought one into a Labyrinth of confused Conjectures; then satisfied the expectation, until by the Clue of time, the Riddles were manifest; and that which at first seemed so hard, now appeared to the understanding, as easie: However, he at present kindly thanked Mother Shipton, and liberally rewarded her Maid (who else would have put him in mind of his neglect) much admiring that she should be so clear-sighted, as to see through his counterfeit dress; resolving afterwards to be more informed by her, concerning future events; he at that time took his solemn leave of her, and returned home.

CHAP. X.

Her Prophecies concerning King Edward the Sixth: The Rebellion of the Commons: The Death of the Duke of Somerset, with, other things.

NOt long had the Abbot been at home, but his Abby was visited by some Instruments employed by the Lord Cromwel for that purpose. He who knew what was intended by this complement thought it not safe to strive against the stream, and therefore quietly surrender his Monastry into the King's hands. And now perceiving Mother Shipton's Prophecy plainly fulfilled, in the downfal of those Houses, which were judged impregnable, against all the assaults and malice,

and

and time; considering the strange revolutions of so short a space; he was very desirous to be more fully informed of the future. In this resolution he repairs again to Mother Shipton's, whom he now accosts more familiarly then he did before, making himself plainly known unto her; telling her, That as what she had formerly spoken, he had found to be true in the event; so his judgment perswaded him, she was not ignorant of those things which were for the future to ensue; and therefore desired her she would not be nice in imparting of this her foreknowledge unto him; for which so great favour, though it were more than his deserts could command, yet should there never in him be wanting a grateful tongue to acknowledge, and a grateful heart to be thankful unto her, for so great a favour.

Mr. Abbot, (said she) leave off complementing, as more fit for Courtiers, and Lovers, and not agreeable to an old Woman, who will neither flatter, nor be flattered by any; and for what you came about I shall not be squeamish to fulfil your request, let me therefore desire you, to lend your attention; and thereupon (after some short pause) she thus began:

A Prince that never shall be born,
Shall make the Shaved Heads forlorn;
Then shall Commons rise in Arms,
And Womens Malice cause much Harms.
O deadly Pride! O hateful Strife!
Brothers to seek each others Life.
Ambition shall so deadly spread,
The Griffin fierce shall loose his Head,
Soon after shall the Lyon dye,
And Mildness usher Cruelty.

These ten lines being Prophecies of the Actions in King Edward's Reign, for the Reader's benefit, (before we proceed any further in her Predictions) we will unfold the meaning of them by themselves, that we may not too much burthen their Memory; but by variety add a pleasure to the reading of them,

A Prince that never shall be born,
Shall make the Shaved Heads forlorn.

By the Prince that never shall be born, is meant King Edward the

birth, of whom all reports do constantly run, that he was not by natural passage delivered into the World, but that his Mother's body was opened for his birth, that she died of the Incision the fourth day following; and by the Shaved Heads, is understood the Monks, Fryers, &c. who are said to become forlorn: the Reformation beginning with the beginning of King Edward's Reign: and the Pope's Pillels put down, as his Supremacy was before.

Then shall Commons rise in Arms.

King Edward having set out certain Injunctions for the Reformation of religion, as the Commissioners passed to divers places for the establishing of them, many scorns were cast upon them, and the farther they went from London, the People were more uncivil, so did they more rise into insolency and contempt; for in Cornwal, the Commons flocked together, having killed one of the Commissioners; and albeit Justice was done to the Offenders, the principal of them being executed in several places, yet could not their boldness be beaten down with their severity, but that the mischief spread farther in Wiltshire, and Somersetshire, where the People supposing that a Common-wealth could not stand without Commons, beat down Inclosures, and laid Parks, and Fields champion. The like Commotions followed in Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Essex, Hartfordshire, Leicestershire Worcestershire, and Rutlandshire; but the greatest of all was in Devonshire, and Norfolk; the one headed by Henry Arundel, Esquire, Governour of the Mount in Cornwal; the other by Robert Ket, a Tanner of Windham, in Norfolk: Those of Devonshire, were accounted above ten thousand, who with a close and smart Seige, surrounded the City of Exeter, which they brought to extream misery, having a potent Foe abroad, and Famine sorely raging within, insomuch, as they were fain to bake bran and meal moulded up in cloathes, for otherwise it would not stick together; at last the Rebels were routed from thence, by the Lord Priby-Seal, with the loss of a thousand of their number, and soon after totally routed, at a place called Clift-heath. Those of Norfolk, were judged to be more dangerous, both because their strength was great, being estimated to be above twenty thousand, as also the City of Norwich was a Friend unto them, or at least wished them no harm: This rude Rout entamped on Monshould-hill, a place impregnable in some sort, being near to Norwich, against whom was sent the Marquess of Northampton,

thampton, and afterwards the Earl of Warwick, who made many sallies upon the Rebels with various success; had the Rebels kept in this Fort, they might have tired out the Earl, his Horse being useless against them; but they relying on an old Prophecy, came down into Dussin-dale and quitted the Fort, the words of the Prophecy were these:

The Country Knuffs, Hob, Dick, and Dick,
With clubs, and clouted Shoone,
Shall fill up Dussin dale with Blood,
Of slaughtered Bodies soon.

Which they Interpreted to be their Enemies Bodies, though it proved of their own; for the Earl letting upon them, after a sour resistance, they were overcome, two thousand slain upon the place; Ket, with his Brother, and nine others executed, the rest taken into Mercy.

And Womens Malice cause much Harms.

Lamentable was the effects occasioned by the Malice of two Women in this King's Reign, which that you may the better understand, we shall declare the original grounds thereof: The King had two Uncles, Brothers to Queen Jane, his deceased Mother, Edward Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector, &c. and Thomas Lord Seymor, Baron of Sudly, high Admiral of England: The Lord Sudly had taken to Wife Katharine Parr, Queen Dowager, last Wife to King Henry the Eighth. The Duke had married the Lady Ann Stanhope, a Woman for many Imperfections intollerable; this Woman did bare such invincible hate, first against the Queen Dowager for light causes, and Womens quarrels; especially, for that she had precedency of place before her, that albeit the Queen Dowager died by Child-birth, yet would not her malice either die, or decrease, but hated the Lord Sudly for her sake, and left buzzing fears and jealousies in her Husband's ears, (who was of an easie belief) that within few days the Lord Sudly was arrested and sent to the Tower, and in a very short time after condemned by Act of Parliament; and within few days after his condemnation, a warrant was sent, under the hand of his Brother, the Duke, whereby his head was delivered to the axe; which verified what was before predicted.

O deadly pride! O hateful strife!
Brothers to seek each others life.

O Wishes! the most sweetest Poyson, the most desired Evil in the World! certainly, as it is true, Syracides saith, That there is no Malice to the Malice of a Woman: so no Mischief wanteth where a malicious Woman bearerh sway; Woman was first given to Man for a Comforter, but not for a Counceller, much less a Controuler and Director; and therefore, in the first sentence against Man, the cause is expresst, Because thou obeyest the voice of thy Wife. And doubtless the Protector, by being thus ruled to the death of his Brother, seemed with his left hand to have cut off his right; for hereby he left himself now unguarded from the Malice of his Enemies, The Earl of Warwick, &c. who being ambitious of ingrossing all power into his own hands, soon wrought the confusion of the Duke, as it follows in the Prophecy:

Ambition shall so deadly spread,
The Gryffin fierce shall lose his Head.

For the Earl of Warwick espying opportunity, shewing himself, and knowing that in troublesome times, the obedience of great Persons is most easily shaken, drew about eighteen of the Privy-council to knit with him against the Lord Protector: These he did to wind up his purpose; that they withdrew from the court, fell to private Consultations, and so ordered the matter, that at length they brought the Protector upon the Scaffold, where, in fine, he had his head cut off, figured here by the name of the Griffin.

Soon after shall the Lyon dye,
And Mildness usher cruelty.

By the Lyon is meant King Edward, who surbibed his Ankle, the Duke of Somerset, not above two years, grief for his death (as it is generally conceived) bringing him into a consumption, though some have reported him to be poysoned, soon after his death Mass and Popery was restored again by Queen Mary, for which cause many afterwards fryed in the flames, verifying the last verse,

And Mildness usher Cruelty.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

Her Prophecies concerning the Death of the Lady **Jane Grey**; the Burning of the Martyrs; of **Wyat**'s Rebellion; the Death of Queen **Mary**; and of Cardinal **Pool**.

BY Parents too ambitious Pride,
The Scaffold ſhall with Blood be dy'd;
A vertuous Lady then ſhall die,
For being raiſed up too high;
Her Death ſhall cauſe another's Joy,
Who will the Kingdom much annoy:
Miters ſhall riſe, Miters come down,
And ſtreams of Blood ſhall **Smithfield** drown:
England ſhall joyn in League with **Spain**,
Which ſome, to hinder, ſtrive in vain:
The **Lyoneſs** from Life retires,
And Pontificial Prieſt expires.

This Prophecy is peculiarly applyed to the Reign of Queen Mary, and may be interpreted after this manner:

By Parents too ambitious Pride,
The Scaffold ſhall with Blood be dy'd;

This is meant by the Lady Jane Grey, Daughter to the Duke of Suffolk, who having married the Lord Gilford Dudly, Son to the Duke of Northumberland; the ambition of Northumberland was ſo great, that he practiſed much on King Edward's tender years, who now was much weakned with ſickneſs, that excluded his two Sisters, the Lady Mary, and Lady Elizabeth, he conveyed the Crown to the Lady Jane, by that which we may call the Teſtament of King Edward, and the Will of the Duke of Northumberland. But the Commons taking part with the Lady Mary, notwithſtanding the Duke went with great Forces againſt her, and his Souldiers differring him, he was forced to rack about, and with an unwilling mind, proclaim her Queen, whom in his heart he hated above all others.

A vertuous Lady then ſhall die,
For being raiſed up too high:

The

The Lady Jane Grey, who out of dutifulnels to her Parents, allumming the title of Queen upon her, for her offence, loſt her head: This Lady Jane was a Woman of moſt rare and incomparable Perfections; for beſides her excellent Beauty, adorn'd with all variety of Vertues, as a clear Sky with Stars, as a princely Diadem with Jewels; ſhe was the mirror of her time, for her Religion and Education in the knowledge of the Liberal Sciences, and skill in Languages, for in Theology, in Philoſophy, in all the Liberal Arts, in the Latine and Greek Tongues, and in the vulgar Languages of divers neer Nations, ſhe far exceeded all of her Sex, and every one of her years.

Her Death ſhall cauſe another's joy,
Who will the Kingdom much annoy.

The death of the Lady Jane was ſuppoſed to be a rejoycing to Queen Mary, and who by reſtoring Popery, and the Perſecutions that the Profeſſors of the Goſpel ſuffered in her time, is ſaid to bring the Kingdom to annoy.

Miters ſhall riſe, Miters come down,
And ſtreams of Blood ſhall Smithfield, drown:

By the Miters are meant the Biſhops, who in the change of Religion, found great change; very few of them keeping their Seats wherein they had been ſeated by King Edward the 6th, the Names of the Biſhops thus put down, were theſe: Cranmar Arch-Biſhop of Canterbury, Ridly Biſhop of London, Poynet Biſhop of Wincheſter, Holgate Arch-Biſhop of York, Buſh Biſhop of Briſtol, Bird Biſhop of Cheſter, Hooper Biſhop of Worceſter and Gloceſter, Barlo Biſhop of Bath and Wells, Story Biſhop of Chicheſter, Ferrar Biſhop of St. Davids, Coverdale Biſhop of Exeter, Taylor Biſhop of Lincoln, and Harley Biſhop of Hereford; in the room of theſe Biſhops thus put down, ſeveral Biſhops were raiſed, as, Cardinal Pool made Arch-Biſhop of Canterbury, Bonner Biſhop of London, Gardiner Biſhop of Wincheſter, Heath Arch-Biſhop of York, Holeman Biſhop of Briſtol, Gotes Biſhop of Cheſter, Brook Biſhop of Gloceſter, Pates Biſhop of Worceſter, Bourn Biſhop of Bath and Wells, Chriſtopherſon Biſhop of Chicheſter, Morgan Biſhop of St. Davids, Turberville Biſhop of Exeter, White Biſhop of Lincoln, and Parſew Biſhop of Hereford.

And

And ſtreams of Blood ſhall Smithfield drown:

Great was the number of Martyrs burned in Smithfield in this Queen's Reign, under the bloody hands of Bonner, Biſhop of London, and Dr. Story, Dean of St. Paul's; the firſt perſecuting by wholeſale, the ſecond by retail; the names of all thoſe who in this place thus teſtified the Faith by the loſs of their Lives, would be too long here to recite: the chief of them were, Mr. John Rogers, Mr. John Bradford Mr. Robert Glover, &c.

England ſhall joyn in League with Spain,
VVhich ſome to hinder ſtrive in vain.

Queen Mary intending to match herſelf with Philip, King of Spain, the bruit thereof being ſpread amongſt the People, was by them all repreſented, as dreading to be under the yoak of a Stranger; to hinder the ſame (amongſt others) Sir Thomas VVyat, a Kentiſh Knight, took Armes, with a great Party aſſiſting him. The Queen hearing of his Commotion, ſent a Herauld to him to deſiſt, which he refuſing to do, ſhe reſolves upon force, ſending the Duke of Norfolk with five hundred Londoners againſt him; but theſe Souldiers bearing more affection to VVyat's cauſe then the Queen's, forſook their Leader, and their Loyalty together, and joyned themſelves to VVyat's Faction; who much elated with this ſupply, preſently reſolves for London, promiſing to himſelf eaſie entrance into that City, and hearty entertainment therein; but contrary to his expectation, coming to South-wark, he found all the Towers of the Tower, and the tops of the ſquare Steeples near the Bridge-foot on the other ſide, planted with Ordinance againſt him, ſo that both Church and State threatned his Ruine; ſo that ſeeing no good to be done there, with a ſwift March (having the darkneſs of the Night for his Coverture) he haſted to Kingſton, paſſeth the River, and comes to Knights-bridge, before almoſt any had notice of his motion. Here he devides his Army into two parts, Five hundred of them wheels down towards White-hall, but could not force their Paſſage into it: Himſelf, with the reſt of the Army, went directly to Charing-croſs, where he met with ſome oppoſition, but nothing daunted thereat, he marched directly down the Strand and Fleet-ſtreet; and coming to Ludgate, promiſed himſelf entrance into the City, but finding the Gate cloſe ſhut, and well fortified againſt him, with Men and Ammunition,

his

his hopes then began to fail him; retreating to Temple-bar, he was fac'd with some Horse, where after a short fight, he submitted himself Prisoner, being first carried to White-hall to be examined, from thence to the Tower, and soon after to the Scaffold, where he received the Rewards of his Rebellion.

The Lyoness from Life retires,
And Pontificial Priest expires:

By the Lyoness is meant Queen Mary, who having reigned five Years and some odd Months, died of a Dropsie, though others say of Grief for the absence of her Husband, King Philip; and others again for Calice (taken not long before) and that she should say, If after she wasdeadthey ripped her up, they would find Calice written on her Heart.

The Pontificial Priest signified Cardinal Pool, who expired within two hours after the Death of Queen Mary; this Prelate was of princely extraction, his Mother Margaret being Daughter to George Duke of Clarence; when he was young he was brought up together with Queen Mary, and being a zealous Catholick during King Edward's Reign, suffered a voluntary Exile for the same; when the Marriage with Prince Phillip and Queen Mary was made up, he returned into England, was made Arch-bishop of Canterbury, more moderate than some other of his Fellow-Bishops, having a favourable inclination towards the Protestants: he survived the Queen but few hours, and was buried in his own Cathedral at Canterbury, with this short and modest Epitaph on his Monument: DEPOSITUM CARDINALIS POLI.

CHAP. XII.

Her Prophesies concerning the Reign of Queen Elizabeth; the Change of Religion; the Attempts of the Papists upon the Queen; the Spanish Invasion; the Burning of Paul's Steeple; the Death of the Queen of Scots; the Reducing Ireland; the Beheading the Earl of Essex, &c.

THe Lyon fierce being dead and gone,
A Maiden-Queen shall Reign anon:
Those who sighed, then shall sing,
And the Bells shall Changes ring.

The

The Papal Power shall bear no sway,
Rome's trash shall hence be swept away.
The Locusts sent from the seven Hills,
The English Rose shall seek to kill.
The Western Monarch's Wooden-horses,
Shall be destroyed by the Duke's Forces.
Troy-novant's Triumphant Spire,
Shall be consum'd with Flames of Fire.
More Wonders yet! a Widowed Queen,
In England shall be headless seen.
The Harp shall give a bitter sound,
An Earl without a Head be found.
Soon after shall the English Rose,
Unto a Male her place dispose.

These lines being a Prophecy of the most remarkable Actions, during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, are to be interpreted after this manner:

The Lyon fierce being dead and gone,
A Maiden-Queen shall Reign anon.

Queen Mary is here meant by the fierce Lyon; so called, not so much for the Cruelty done by her, as by the Bishops and Priests was done under her; for take her in herself, secluded from bloody Counsellors, and she was a most merciful, pious, just Princess; but in respect of the Blood that was shed, and the Persecutions then suffered, she is here termed a fierce Lyon: After whom is said, A Maiden-Queen to Reign anon, meant by Queen Elizabeth, one who was the Mirrour of her Sex and Age, who for above forty years, to the admiration of Envy itself, managed the Affairs of this Kingdom; having, when she began, few Friends that durst help, and leaving no Foes when she died that could hurt her, and acted her part here so well whilst here she reigned, that History can scarcely afford us one Prince to be matched to her Fame, in all considerable particulars.

Those who sighed, then shall sing,
And the Bells shall Changes Ring.

Many who sate and sighed in the days of Queen Mary, by reason of the hot Persecution, being forced to forsake their Houses, because they

would not forſake their Religion, now that Queen Elizabeth began to Reign, their mourning was turn'd into joy, their ſighing into ſinging, returning from their exile with Pſalms of Thankſgiving in their mouths; where the Bells rang ſuch Changes in Religion, that the Maſs was put down, and the Common-Prayer ſet up; Popery baniſhed and Reformation eſtabliſhed; the Miniſters of the Goſpel advanced, and the Sebabelling Prieſts, Monks, and Fryers depreſſed.

The Papal Power ſhall bear no ſway;
Rome's Traſh ſhall hence be ſwept away.

Soon after the Queen's coming to the Crown, a Parliament began at VVeſtminſter, wherein the Laws of King Henry the Eighth againſt the See of Rome were renewed, and thoſe of King Edward the Sixth, in favour of the Proteſtants revived, and the Laws by Queen Mary made againſt them, repealed: Uniformity of Prayer, and Adminiſtration of Sacraments was enacted, with a Reſtitution of firſt Fruits and Tenths to the Crown; and the Queen acknowledged to be the Only and Supream Governour of Her Kingdoms: The people in each place beating down Superſtitious Pictures and Images, which blind and miſguided zeal had ſet up.

The Locuſts ſent from the ſeven Hill,
The *Engliſh* Roſe ſhall ſeek to Kill.

By the Locuſts are meant the Prieſts, Fryers and Jeſuits, who ſpread all the World over in greater numbers than the Locuſt did in the Land of Egypt; and by the ſeven Hills, is meant Rome, which is built upon ſeven Hills; and by the Engliſh Roſe is ſignified Queen Elizabeth, whom the Prieſts and Jeſuits by their Inſtruments did often attempt to kill; ſo that if we ſeriouſly conſider her Reign, we ſhall ſcarcely find any Prince, whoſe Life was ſo often attempted as her's; of which, to give you ſome Examples, would not be impertinent to our Purpoſe, and firſt in her Siſter's Reign; Stephen Gardiner Biſhop of VVincheſter, and other Romaniſts, offended with her Religion, ſo wrought with Queen Mary, ſuggeſting that ſhe was conſenting to VVyat's Inſurrection that ſhe was ſent Priſoner to the Tower, and (as it is ſaid) a Warrant intended to be ſealed for her Execution, had not King Philip interceeded. After ſhe came to the Crown ſhe was as incident to troubles as the Month April is to ſhowers; Spain, France, and Scotland, com-

combining against her; Pope Pius Quintus, by his Bull, depo'es her, in prolecution whereof the Earls of Northumberland and VVestmoreland rise up in Rebellion, being to have been assisted by the Duke D' Alva out of the Low-Countries; but out of these Troubles she was delivered by their Confusion. After these Leonard Dakers, second Son to VVilliam Lord Dakers of Gellesland, endeavoured to bring her into Trouble, being intrusted by her with competent Forces, which he intending to have imployed to her Detriment, failed in his Hopes and Power, and brought both Shame and Ruine to himself. Next did Thomas and Edward Stanley, younger Sons to the Earl of Darby, with several others plot against her, all which ended in their Ruine and her Safety. These failing, Captain Stukley promised to perform wonders against her, but his Mountains proved not so much as Mole hills, he being Slain in Barberry, his Design failed. But to speak of personal Attempts against her, one Somerville drew his Sword in the Court to have Slain her; Doctor Parry a Spaniolized Italian intended to have Pistoled her as she walked in the privy Garden; Savage, VVindsor, Salisbury, Tilney, and Others, conspired to kill her, the which they waited several times to effect; one VVilliam Stafford, by the instigation of the French Ambassador, undertook to kill her: Doctor Laper one of her Sworn Physitians, for a sum of Money, engaged to Poyson her: and to conclude all, one Edward Squire, formerly belonging to her Stable, with a mortiferous Confection, poysoned the Pomel of her Saddle, when she was riding out; from all which notwithstanding, though she were maliciously poysoned, she was miraculously preserved, and died in peace; maugre all the Malice of her Enemies.

The VVestern Monarchs VVooden-horses,
Shall be destroy'd by the Drake's Forces.

By the VVestern Monarchs VVooden-horses, is meant the King of Spain's great Armado, in the year 1588, by them termed invincible, though the success of it answered not the name, being by Sir Francis Drake and others, brave Sons of Neptune, and Souldiers of Mars, met withal, fought with, and really vanquisht, most of them sunk and the rest destitute and scatter'd, being chased by our Ships past the 57 Degree of Northern Latitude, and there left to be pursued by hunger and cold; a victory so remarkable, that time, nor age, will ever wear the remembrance thereof away.

Troy-novant's Triumphant Spire,
Shall be consum'd in Flames of Fire.

By Troy-novant is meant London, which in ancient writings is called Troy-novant; and the Triumphant Spire, signifies Paul's Steeple, which in the year 1561, the fourth of June, strangely fell on Fire, burning for the space of five full hours, in which time it melted all the Lead off the Church, only the Stone-arches escaping the fury thereof; sundry Causes were attributed by sundry Persons of this Fire, some that it was casually blasted with Lightning; others that it was mischievously done by Art Magick; and others (which was most likely) done by the negligence of a Plummer, carelesly leaving his coals therein. The Queen was much grieved for this mischance, but by her bounty, the Cities liberality, and a contribution of the Clergy, it was afterwards repaired, only the blunt Tower had not the top thereof sharpned into a Spire as before.

More Wonders yet! a Widdowed Queen,
In England, shall be Headless seen.

The Widdowed Queen signifies the Queen of Scots, the Mother of King James, who was beheaded at Fotheringhay-castle, some say by the privity, others to the great discontent of Queen Elizabeth: A Lady of a sharp Wit, undaunted Spirit, comely Person, beautiful Face, majestick Presence, a fluent Orator, and an excellent Poet, as may appear by several things now extant; amongst others of her Verses, this was one, which she wrote with a pointed Diamond in a window, during her Imprisonment in Fotheringhay-castle.

From the top of all my Trust,
Mishap hath laid me in the Dust.

She was Beheaded the ——day of——Anno 1587, and was first Buried in the Quire of Peterborough, afterwards by her Son King James, solemnly removed from thence to Westminster, where in the South-side of the Chappel of King Henry the Seventh, he erected a Lately Monument to her Memory.

The Harp shall give a better Sound.

The

The Harp signifies Ireland, as being the Armes of that Country, which Queen Elizabeth by reducing to a better obedience, made it give a better Sound, that is, made it more civilized, and profitable to the Exchequer then ever before.

An Earl without a Head be found.

This was spoken of the Earl of Essex, one who was the favourite of the Queen, and darling of the People, two things which seldome come together, and yet could not both of them protect him from the Scaffold, but that thereon he lost his Head.

Soon after shall the English Rose,
Unto a Male her place Dispose.

By the English Rose is meant Queen Elizabeth, as we said before, by whose Death, the Right and Title to the Crown, came to James the Sixth, King of Scotland, as lineally descended from Margaret the eldest Daughter to King Henry the Seventh; the Issue Male failing by the Death of Queen Elizabeth: and here is to be remembred, the Policy of King Henry the Seventh, who having two Daughters, Married the Eldest of them to the King of Scotland, and the Youngest to the King of France, that if his Issue Male should happen to fail (as it afterwards did) then Scotland, might wait upon England as the greater Kingdom, and not England upon France as the lesser: besides there was an old Prophecy, which intimated King James's coming to the English Crown; for when King Edward the First haraced Scotland, amongst other things, he brought from thence their Royal Chair, (still preserved at the Abby in Westminster) upon which Chair these Verses were writ:

If Fates go right, where e're this Chair is Pight,
The Regal Race of Scots shall Rule the Place.

Which by the Coronation of King James there performed, made good the words of the Prophecy.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

The Prophesies of the Reign of King James; his Uniting England and Scotland; his Peaceable Reign; a Learned time; the Powder-Treason; the Marriage with the Prince Elector, and Lady Elizabeth; the Death of Prince Henry.

THe Northern Lyon over Tweed,
The Maiden Queen shall then succeed,
And joyn in one, two Mighty States,
Janus then shall shut his Gates.
Mars shall yield to Mercury,
All things tend to Prosperity.
Hell's Power by a fatal Blow,
Shall seek the Land to Overthrow;
Which by mistake shall be reverst,
And Heads from Shoulders be dispersst.
The British Olive next shall twine
In Marriage with the German Vine.
The Ninth to Death his Power shall yield,
Death Conquers all, he wins the Feild.

Next follows the remarkable Actions of King James's Reign, predicted in the foregoing lines, which may be thus explained

The Northern Lyon over Tweed,
The Maiden Queen shall then succeed,
And joyn in one, two Mighty States.

By the Northern Lyon, is meant King James; and by the Maiden Queen, Queen Elizabeth, whom King James; being King of Scotland succeeded in the English Crown, joyned thereby the two Nations of England and Scotland, which had been often attempted before, not only by Conquest, but by Marriage; once by Conquest, by King Edward the First, who subdued their Armies, took their strong Places, and made their Nobles yield him obeisance; yet what they thus lost by him, they recovered of his Son King Edward the Second; the other of Marriage, was by King Henry the Eighth, who endeavoured to have matched his Son Prince Edward, with the Heiress of Scotland, and had proceeded very far therein, when Death cut him off;

and

and though afterwards attempted by the Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector, and the Scots beaten at Musselborough-field, yet all would not prevail; God having decreed their union to be afterwards, in a more peaceable manner.

Janus then shall shut his Gates:

Janus was one of the Gods belonging to the ancient Romans; whose Temple was never shut but in the days of Peace, which happened not above twice, in the space of two Thousand Years: King James's Reign being a very peaceable time, when Swords rusted in their Sheaths for want of using them; Mother Shipton in her Prophesie alludes thereto.

Mars shall yield to Mercury,
All things tend to Prosperity.

War shall give place to Peace, Fighting to Pleading, the Sword to the Gown, the Pike to the Pen, Barbarism to Learning, &c. this Peace shall cause Plenty, Plenty work Prosperity, &c.

Hell's Power by a fatal Blow,
Shall seek the Land to Overthrow.
VVhich by mistake shall be reverst,
And Heads from Shoulders be dispers't.

These Lines have reference to the horrid Powper-Plot, which was to have been acted by some desperate Papists, to have blown up the Parliament house with Gun-powder, and therein our Religion Laws, King, Prince, Peers, Bishops, Judges, Knights, and Burgesses, all designed to Destruction: The chief actors herein were, Robert Catesby, Thomas Percy, Sir Everar Digby, Francis Threshan, Robert VVinster, Thomas VVinter, John VVright, Chris. VVright, Ambrose Bookwood, Robert Key, John Graunt, Guido Fauz, and Bates Catesbias man, Gentlemen most of Antient Families, some of plentiful Fortunes, but all of resolute Spirits: These being suggested by the Devil, and seconded by his Agents, the Jesuits, to bring their purpose about, hired a Vault under the Parliament-House wherein they lodged thirty six barrels of Powder, with several Iron bars, to make the force of the Fire more effectual, all which they covered with Bil-

lets,

lers, thinking thereby to have covered their Design from being discovered: On the fifthof November, the day of the Parliaments first sitting, was the time appointed, to put their Design in Execution; but providence had ordered it otherwise, that those who intended mischief, should taste the effects of it; on the Evening before, came to the Lord Monteagle a strange Letter, from a strange hand, by a strange Messenger; without Date to it, or Name at it, and (to outward appearance) sence in it? A Letter which when it was opened, was even still Sealed, such the affected obscurity therein. The Letter contained these words:

My Lord,

OUt of the Love I bear to some of your Friends, I have a care of your Preservation; therefore I would advise you, as you tender your Life, to devise some excuse to shift off your attendance at this Parliament: For God and Man have concurred to punish the wickedness of this time. And think not slightly of this Advertisement, but retire yourself into your Country, where you may expect the Event in safety: for though there be no appearance of any stir, yet I say, they shall receive a terrible Blow this Parliament, and yet they shall not see who hurts them: This Counsel is not to be Contemned, because it may do you good, and can do you no harm; for the danger is past so soon as you have burnt the Letter; and I hope God will give you Grace to make good use of it: To whose Holy Protection I commend you.

This Letter being communicated to the King, he expounds the mystical Blow, to be meant by Gun-powder, and thereupon commanded the Rooms under the Parliament House to be searcht, where the Mystery of Iniquity was quickly discovered, some of the Traytors taken in London, others in the Country; the hands of Justice overtaken them, they became Examples of Justice, and tasted of that Cup (though not with that Cruelty) which they intended others should have drank of.

The British Olive next shall twine,
In Marriage with the German Vine.

By the British Olive, is meant the Lady Elizabeth, Daughter to King James; and by the German Vine, the most Illustrious Prince Frederick,

Frederick, Count Palatine, of the Rhine; this Lady Elizabeth was enriched with all the endowments both of Body and Mind, which make to the compleating of a Princess; most dearly beloved of the English, as one that deserved well of all; hear a wit of her Age thus complaining:

Most sweet Elizabeth! that happy Name,
If we lost nothing else by losing thee,
So dear to England is, we are to blame
If without Tears and Sighs we parted be.

They were Married with great Solemnity at Westminster, February 14, Anno 1612.

The Ninth to Death his Power shall yield;
Death Conquers all, he wins the Field.

This is meant of Prince Henry, who is called the Ninth, in regard that if he had lived till King James died, he would have been the Ninth King of that Name, since the Conquest: he was a Prince of most excellent Parts, not wanting any thing wherewith Nature and Art could enrich him; of a very Pious Disposition, never heard by any alive to swear an Oath, for which Arch-Bishop Abbot commended him in his Funeral Sermon, the Prince being wont to say, That he knew no Game or Value to be wone or lost, that could be worth an Oath. He died of an extraordinary burning Feaver, being generally lamented of the whole Land.

CHAP. XIV.

The Prophesies of the Reign of King Charles the First; his Marriage with France; the Murther of the Duke of Buckingham; the Scottish Troubles; of the Long Parliament, and Bloody War, ensuing after the execrable Murther of the King.

MOther Shipton having proceeded thus far in her Prophesies, broke off abruptly with a deep sigh, the tears trickling down her Cheeks, accompanied with the wringings of her hands, as if some extraordinary mischance had befallen her. The Abbot wondered greatly what should be the cause of so suddain an alteration, having observed all along before a setled composedness in her countenance, and now to

break out into such exclamations: He therefore thus said unto her, Mother Shipton, it is more then some ordinary matter which hath made you to break out into this sudden Passion, and if it may not be troublesome unto you, I shall desire, that as hitherto you have not been scrupulous in revealing those Secrets unto me, which have wrought in me both Wonder and Amazement, so that now you will not so abruptly break off, as to leave me in suspence of the Cause of your Sorrow. Ah, Mr. Abbot! (said she) who can with dry eyes repeat what must next ensue, or but think upon it without a heart full of Agony, to see Vertue trampled on, and Vice exalted; Beggars on Horse-back, and Princes on Foot; the Innocent condemned, and the Blood-thirsty go free; but since my Promise binds me to fulfil your Request, I shall proceed where I left?

The Crown then fits the White King's Head,
Who with the Lillies soon shall wed;
Then shall a Peasant's bloody Knife,
Deprive a great Man of his Life.
Forth from the North shall Mischief blow,
And English Hob shall add thereto.
Then shall the Council great Assemble,
Who shall make great and small to tremble.
Wars shall rage as he were Wood,
And Earth shall drunken be with Blood.
The VVhite King then (O grief to see)
By wicked Hands shall Murdered be.

These Lines are so plain, relating to the Actions of the late Times, as shall need no Oedipus to explain them; however as we have all along made several Comments upon her Text, we shall here likewise proceed in the same Method as we did before:

The Crown then fits the VVhite King's Head.

By the VVhite King, is meant King Charles the First, so called, not only in respect of the purity and uprightness of his Life, signified by White; but that also at the time of his Coronation he was Cloathed in VVhite, which some venemous tongues have since urged against him, That he was not Crowned as other Kings, as if Princes might not have the same liberty as meaner Persons, to assume what coloured Garb they list to wear to themselves.

VVho

VVho with the Lillies soon shall wed.

Somewhat before King James's Death, a Marriage was concluded on betwixt Prince Charles, and the Lady Henrietta Maria, Daughter to that Martial Prince Henry the fourth, King of France; but before the Consummation thereof, King James Died; not long after his Funeral was over, she was brought into England, and solemnly Married to King Charles, who is hereupon said to wed the Lillies, the Lillies being the Armes of France.

Then shall a Peasant's bloody Knife,
Deprive a great Man of his Life.

This is spoken of the Duke of Buckingham, the greatest Man in Favour of those times, and thereupon (as it is most commonly seen) most hated of the People; who laid the blame of all miscarriages in the State upon him; right or wrong he was sure to undergo their censure: Being made General for the Relief of Rochel, then Besieged by the French Forces; before he imbarked at Portsmouth, he was most villanously Stabbed by one Felton, a discontented Officer in his Army; who was so far from flying for the same, that though he might have passed away undiscovered he boldly avowed himself to be the Man that did it; alledging, That he had therein done his Country good Service; but before his Death was better principled, and made sensible of the heinousness of the Sin of Murther, recanting his former erronious Principles, and dying very penitently, being hanged in Chains at Portsmouth, Anno 1626.

Forth from the North shall mischief blow,
And English Pob shall add thereto.

This Prophesie alludes to that ancient Proverb, From the cold North all ill comes forth; and may be understood of our Troubles commencing in 1639, taking their original rise from Scotland, and fomented by several factious Spirits in England, the Dagon of Presbytery beginning then to appear in its own colours, the Kirk of Scotland having so high an opinion of its own purity, that it participated more of Moses his platform in the Mount, then other Protestant Churches, being a Reformed Reformation; so that the practise thereof might be di-

verroy to others, and she fit to give, not take, write, nor receive Copies from any Neighbouring Church; desiring that all others were like unto them, Save only in their Afflictions. Hereupon they stood so high upon their Pantosles, that they refused the Common-prayer, disclaimed their Bishops, raised Tumults, and under pretence of defending the Scotish Kirk, raised a War against the English State, the venome of which Poyson so infected the veins of the English, who followed this Scotish President, that it brake forth into a most bitter War, and ended not, but with the death of many thousands of People.

Then shall the Council great Assemble,
Who shall make great and small to tremble.

By the great Council is meant the long-lasting Parliament, so known to all posterity, for the remarkable Transactions therein: It began November the third 1640, and may more properly be said to be the Parliament That wrought Wonders, then that in the time of King Henry the Third, which had the same Appellation. By them fell the wise Stafford, and reverend Laud; by them was Episcopacy voted down, and Presbytery voted up; by them was the Common-prayer denyed, and the Directory exalted; they were the first that brought that strange Riddle into the World, That a Man might Fight for, and against his King; by them was the Oath, Ex Officio condemned, and the Covenant (Far worse) applauded: in sum, by them was the Church and State turned topsie turvy; but this cannot be reported of all amongst them, many of them hated their doings, dissented from them, and suffered by them.

Mars shall rage as he were Wood,
And Earth shall drunken be with Blood.

To repeat all the Skirmishes, Fights, and Battles that have happened betwixt the Kings and Parliaments Forces, (here intended by this Prophesie) would of itself require a Volume, in some of which, viz. that at Marston-more, eight thousand Men were killed at a time, so that the Earth might well be said to be drunken with their Blood; and which is the more pity, was shed by Englishmen of one Country, Citizens against Citizens, Neighbours against Neighbours, nay one Kinsman against another, and prosecuted with the greatest vigour that might be, according to that of the Poet:

The

The highest fury Reigns in Civil-war,
And Country-men in Fight most cruel are;

As was verified all a long during our unnatural Civil-war, none holding out with more obstinacy, fighting more eagerly, nor, in the execution, more bloody then they.

The White King then (O grief to see)
By wicked Hands shall Murthered be.

Spoken concerning the execrable Murther of that Pious Prince, King Charles the First, the most renowned for Piety, Prudence and Patience; of all his Contemporary Princes throughout the whole World; of whom, when all is said that can be spoken, yet doth all come far short of his deserved praises: I shall therefore sum up all with this Epitaph, made on him by a learned Pen:

He that can spell a Sigh, and read a Tear,
Pronounce Amazement, and accent wild Fear;
Having all Grief by Heart, He, only he
Is fit to VVrite and Read thy Elegy.
Unvalued Charles! thou art so hard a Text,
VVrit in one Age, not understood i'th' next.

CHAP. XV.

The Reign of King Charles the Second; the Usurpation of Cromwell; the strange Confusions of a Democrital Government; the Restauration of the King; the great Sickness; the Burning of the City of London.

THe White King Dead, the Wolf shall then
With Blood possess the Lyon's Den;
But Death shall hurry him away,
Confusion shall a while bear sway;
But Fate to England shall restore
A King to Reign as heretofore.
Mercy, and Justice too, likewise,
He in his time shall exercise.

Great

Great Death in London shall be though,
And Men on tops of Houses go.

These Prophesies being all fulfilled in the Memory of Man, and so well known unto the World, we shall be the briefer in the explanation of them.

The White King dead, the Wolf shall then
With Blood possess the Lyon's Den.

By the White King (as we said before) is meant King Charles the First; and by the Wolf Oliver Cromwel so termed by reason of his bloody Usurpation; that Beast being judged more greedy and ravenous of all others; and therefore fitly resembled to Cromwel, whose Ambition was such that he left no means unattempted, until he had got into the Lyon's Den, that is to say, until he had attained the sole Government; which being done, he then pluckt the Stairs down by which he had mounted, turning the Rump out of doors, making them his Servants, who were formerly his Masters; exercising his cruelty upon Cavaliers, which he deemed double Policy, as being thereby rid of his Enemies, and enriching his Coffers with their Wealth, though it were in effect but Murther and Robbery, and proclaimed him to be a Blood-thirty Tyrant.

But Death shall hurry him away.

Very remarkable was the Day in which the Protector died, being the Third of September Anno 1658, wherein the Wind was so violent, that it overthrew many Houses, tore up many Trees by the Roots, tumbled down Chimneys, and unroof'd Barns and Stables; But as it is a very ill Wind that blows none good, so with all the hurt this Wind did, it made some Recompence, in blowing this Bloody Tyrant away, which made the People so little sensible of their losses, that they thought their private Harms not to stand in Competion with this general Good.

Confusion shall a while bear sway.

Spoken in respect of the Confusion of Governments we then had: First, a Rump Parliament, then a Protector, next a Rump Parliament

ment agen, then a Fools-bauble, called, A Committe of Safety, afterwards a Rump Parliament agen; now thus, then that, a great many Governments, and none good;

But Fate to England shall restore
A King to Reign as heretofore.

This was fulfilled in the happy Restauration of King Charles the Second, which put a Period to all those Oligarchical Confusions, and Restored the Land to its Ancient pristine Government; which till then, groaned under the Pressures of a Company of Mechanical (and therein the worst sort of) Tyrants.

Mercy and Justice too likewise,
He in his time shall exercise.

Of this many are the examples which might be produced, how many, though notorious Delinquents, received to Mercy? Life given to those, who would have taken his Life away; few only suffering, but such whose Offences were so Capital, as could not come well within the Verge of a Pardon, or stood upon Justification of their former execrable Actions: Such rotten Members deserving to be cut off from the Body of the Common-wealth, who otherwise would have been very Obnoxious and Prejudicial to those that were Sound.

Great Death in London shall be though,

Verified by the great Plague in London 1665, (which for number was the greatest that hath been known in these latter Centuries of Years, and which (if not any thing else) might convince our Sectaries, how necessary that Prayer in the Letany is for to be used, From Plague, Pestilence, and Famine, good Lord deliver us.

And Men on tops of Houses go.

This was suddenly fulfilled in that great Conflagration of Fire, which happened in London, Sept. 2, 3, and 4, Anno 1666, by which so many Houses were destroyed, that Men afterwards in the Ruins went on the tops of those Houses, whose lofty Structures not long before seemed to brave the Skie, and which would daze weak Eyes to look up and behold the tops of them.

The

The Fiery year as soon as o're,
Peace shall then be as before.
A Phenix City in strange wise,
Shall out of fatal Ashes rise.

These Predictions were exactly accomplisht by the Peace concluded with the Dutch soon after 1666, called here properly the Fiery year, and the wonderful Rebuilding of the City of London to greater Magnificence then ever in so short a space.

When Mars again unsheaths his Sword,
Your Treacherous Friends small aid afford:
Great noise there shall be heard, great shouts and cries,
And Seas shall Thunder louder than the Skies.

This alludes to the second Dutch War, wherein the French pretended to be Friends to the English, but afforded them small aid, but in truth basely deserted them in the Engagements at Sea, where the Canons were louder than Thunder.

A Boat a Boat, look thwart the Thames,
The Southern-pile is all on Flames.

This can be understood of nothing but the great Fire in South-wark, wherein the best part of the Burrough, which she calls the Southern-pile, was Consumed.

The World's in Arms, and ill at ease,
Another World looks on in Peace.
The happy Isle shall freely Trade,
VVhile Blood and Horror mighty Realms Invade.

This was happily as to England verified in the year 1677, when she only stood looking on in Peace, and enjoyed freedom of Trade, whilst all the rest of Europe were fiercely engaged in War.

The Eagle droops, and moults his VVings,
And sewds arise 'twixt Northern Kings:
Holland is threatned: Spain both pine,
And Blood shall swell the Rapid Rhyne.

This

This Relates to the late Wars between France and the Empire, whose Arms are the Eagle; whereby great Destruction was occasioned on the Borders of the River Rhyne, the Chief seat of that War. And as the two Northern Crowns, Sweeden and Denmark were engaged in Arms one against the other, so Holland was much threatned, and the Spanish Territories in the Low-Countries curtail'd and weakened, besides what may yet happen in that kind hereafter.

But when the Orange and the Rose
Unite, beware old England's Foes.

By the Rose is commonly understood a branch of the Royal English Stem, and by Orange is plainly denoted, his Highness the Prince of that Title; and tho' there has been an Inter-marriage between those Illustrious Families, yet by the Series of things here foretold. It must be interpreted in this place, to refer to the Match between the present Prince, and the Princess Mary, eldest Daughter to his Royal Highness the Duke of York; which she foretells shall be of happy consequence to our Nation, in point both of security and advantage, and a great disappointment to the Enemies of England:

In Sixteen Hundred Seventy Eight,
That Corn on which our Horses bait,
Shall help, preserve, a threaned State,
And Trunk-bed, and Horses-pride;
A Mass of Villany unside;
But sturdy Doubts abroad are spread,
And each Man believes as he is led.

'Tis not difficult to accommodate this to the Discovery of the Popish-plot, 1678: The names of the three Principal Sectaries being Hieroglyphically described, viz. Oats, Bedlow, and Prance, and how much their Testimony has been credited by most, and yet unbelieved or doubted of by others, is well known, nor is it the present business to say who is in the right, or who in the wrong.

Confusions now possess the Isle,
And wisest Counsel more Emoroid
The Feet by subtle Artsure led,
To dictate to their Soyeraign Head,

Till Royal Jove exert his Power,
And brings aſpiring Rabbi's lower.

He that cannot Interpret this part of the Oracle, without an Oedipus, were beſt to let forth an Hue and Cry after his memory and underſtanding.

Then different Furies ſeek to ſpoil
The Realm, but juſtly meet a Foil;
The Flame's extinct by help of Oyl.

This apparently Indicates the laſt Damnable Plot againſt the Perſon of his Sacred Majeſty, and his Royal Brother, and the Government; firſt diſcover'd moſt ſeaſonably by a Perſon that is by Trade an Oyl-man.

A Chriſtal-wall there ſhall be Built
A thwart the Thames, yet all that Skilt,
Heavens Miſtique Language ſhall be blind,
And no cauſe of this Wonder find.
Folks Fiſh for Toys, inſtead of Roach,
And for a Wherry, call a Coach.

This is a pat deſcription of the late wonderful Froſt in December 1683, and January and February 1683, and 84. when the Thames for above a month was ſo Frozen, that not only thouſands of People daily paſs'd over, but whole Streets were built, where all ſorts of Toys were ſold, Coaches continually ply'd on the Ice, between the Temple and Weſtminſter, as in the Streets; Bulls were baited, an whole Ox Roaſted on the Thames, as which as no Age could parralel, ſo it was obſerved that this extraordinary Froſt was ſo far from being foretold by any of our vulgar Aſtrologers, who pretend to be deep learned in Heaven's Books, that on the Contrary, they all the while generally propoſed fine moderate temperate Weather.

But before this, Danubius Streams,
Shall be more ſtrait-lac'd than the Thames,
The Creſcent does the Eagle threaten,
But is thruſt home, ſeverely beaten,

For

For the pole-ſtar at laſt appears,
And an All-conquering Banner rears.

The Imperial City Vienna, ſcituate on the River Danow, (in Latine called Danubius) was beſeiged towards the latter end of the year 1683, by two hundred thouſand Turks, (whoſe Arms are the Creſcent or Half-Moon encreaſing) under the Command of the Grand Vizier; but after a moſt valiant and long reſiſtance, the Infidels by the coming up of the Poliſh Army, under the moſt renowned King Sobieski, (called here by way of alluſion, the Pole-ſtar) joyn'd with the united Forces of the Empire, were forc'd to raiſe their Seige, being vanquiſht in Battle, and purſued towards Turkey, with almoſt incredible ſlaughter.

Here follows ſome other Propheſies, which because they ſeem to concern future Revolutions, we ſhall leave the Interpretation to time, and the intelligent Reader:

I.

When Tybers brackiſh ſtreams Combine
To mix their VVaters with the Slime;
And both do ſtrive to ſtop the Rhyne,
Cedars ſhall ſtoop to Court the Vine.

II.

After thick Clouds, the VVelkin clears,
And Albion long Night-mar'd with fears,
VVith a ſerener Look appears;
Let her be Loyal and quiet at home,
And then defie the Arts of Hell and Rome.

III.

VVait but a while, and the long Floating Ark
Arrives, and Shipwracks Peter's forged Barque.
The Scarlet Strumpet that ſo rag'd with Ire,
Shall ſee her putrid Fleſh conſum'd with Fire.
The disbranch'd Olive joyn'd to Jeſſes-root,
Brings forth on Jordan's Plains redoubled Fruit.

IV.

Now fond Oppinions vanish, Factions cease,
And the World sings in universal Peace.
From Heaven Astrea returns, and doth possess
All Japhet's spreading Sons with happiness.
Swords turn'd to Plow-shears, all that was amiss
Remov'd, gives place unto a general Bliss;
But who, O who! shall Live, when God doth this?

Whether Mother Shipton were certainly the Author of all these last Prophetick Lines, is hard to say; but for ought we can find, she lived to an extraordinary Age, and tho' she was generally believed to be a Witch, yet Multitudes that either read or heard her Prophesies, have had a great esteem for them, and her Memory to this day is much honoured by those of her own Country.

AN ACCOUNT OF Mr. *Holwell*'s late Predictions, CONCERNING The *Turk*, *Pope*, and *French* King, &c.

AMongst all that in this Age have adventured to publish Predictions touching future grand Events, one Mr. JOHN HOLWELL (a Person that by his Writings seems not meanly vers'd in Astrology and Calculations) has with most assurance let forth his Conceptions, especially touching great Inroads to be made by the Turks upon Christendome; Dangers impending the Potent and now flourishing Monarchy and Realm of France; the Destruction of Rome, and the Pope, &c. Wherefore to gratifie the Reader's Curiosity (without obliging his Faith) I shall here subjoyn a Breviate of some of his Prognostications.

In his Appendix to his Catastrophe Mundi, having assigned the Radix of the Mighty Turkish Monarchy, to a Conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter in Aquary, Anno 1685, and comparing therewith the late Conjunctions of those two superiour Planets in 1681, and 1683, he proceeds, p. 19. to give his Judgment in these words:

Those places will first have their share of Suffering, that are under Aquarius, amongst which let Malachia and the South-part of Poland beware; neither shall Muscovia be free, but shall taste of the bitter Cup, that is allotted for Europe to taste. Mars making of his long transit in Libra, tells us, that Austria shall be much wasted, and the

People thereof brought very low, and a great part of them will be be carried Captive, and their great Town Vienna will go near to be lost.

All these was Literally fulfilled last Summer, but by God's gracious Providence, the City of Vienna, (when reduced to the utmost extremity) was reliev'd, and the Infidels beat off with great Slaughter, and persued towards their own Territories, by the Victorious King of Poland; whereby 'tis hoped all the Subsequent Mischiefs by this Author threatned, may be prevented, tho he seems of quite another Opinion; for thus he goes on:

Poland shall be much wasted by both Turk and Tartar, for this Conjunction is in square to the Eleventh House of that King's Election, and the Eclipses fall in the Second. And Mercury Lord of the Seventh House at the time of his Election, is in this Eclipse in square to his Tenth. And Mars Lord of the Tenth, is in Libra week: This bids Poland to be very careful how he doth go to War during the time that this Conjunction is allotted to Operate, which will extend Twenty Years, for if he doth fall out with either Turk or Tartar he must expect to gain nothing but the Devastation of his Fruitful country, with the Destruction of his People, if not the Hazzard of the Crown, and Dignity of that Potent Kingdom.

Page 21. We find these words: This triple Conjunction being in Leo, falls in Square to Scorpio; this doth bid the Duke of Boharia look to his Country, for the Turk is like to invade him with a very great Army, and will lay waste a great part of his Territories, and joyn it to the rest of his Conquest. And Mars being posited in Virgo, at the first time of the three Conjunctions, doth foretell that the Dukedom of Wittenburge, shall have the Turks to range in its Bowels, at which time the Crown of France will begin to shake for fear, and wish that he was a little further from him; but it will be in vain, for the Turk will invade his new Conquest in Alsatia, and from thence pass through Loraine into France, and take Burgundy in the twinkling of an Eye. All the United Provinces submit to his Protection, without being invaded, and by so doing save their Country from Fire and Sword. And at the same time the Turk is so Victorious in the South-west parts of Germany, another part of his vast great Army will range in the North, and in the North-west parts thereof, and pass through Bohemia, and enter Franconia, and from

thence

thence he will Invade both Higher and Lower Saxony, even as far as the North parts thereof. It will seem strange to hear that the Turk should be got so far into Germany as Westphalia, and the Country of Juliers, but so it will be, and God's Will must be done.

Page 26. He again tells us, That the Kingdom of France shall not escape the Hands of the Turk, for he will lay waste a great many of its flourishing Cities, but that it shall be occasioned by its own Subjects, who will rebell and Invite in the Turk, &c.

After which, descanting on the Nativity of his most Christian Majesty, he tells us, That about August 1683, his Ascendant was directed to the Body of Mars, whence he predicts many Miseries and personal Hazzards, and particuliar Mentions that the said French Monarchy shall be subject to have dangerous Falls from Horse-back.

Which last, about that time was so far verified, that his said Majesty had a Fall from his Horse, and broke or dislocated his Arm.

He proceeds to threaten that great Prince in the year 1684. and for seaven Years after (if he shall so long live) with great and various Infelicities, but in such a stile, as (for the Respect due to all Crowned Heads) I shall forbear to repeat.

Much more modesty was that presage of Mr. Lilly's, delivered long since, viz. In the year 1672, at which time the French King made his first Attempt upon Holland, viz.

A certain kind of Astonishment shall surprize an active Potentate of Europe, seeing neither his Actions of War or Peace, succeed according to his projected Expectations; for he may know that there is an Over-ruling Power that can contradict all Politick Councils, when not grounded upon Equity: And this he ought to remember, that he is not the Man ordained to give Laws to his Neighbouring Nations.

But to return to Mr. Holwell, Page 29, we find these words, Neither will Spain be free from great Calamity, for he must strike his Sail to that mighty Monarch the Ottoman Emperor. And thou, oh Italy! hast a great share of this Cup of God's Wrath, for great will be the Scarcity that will be in the fruitful Country, and an universal Plague will over-spread thy Territories, and the Turk will destroy with Fire and Sword a great part of thy famous Towns and Cities; and he will come even to the Gates of Rome, and Sack it, as bad as the Gawls did, and will keep possession, and destroy it with Fire, and strew Salt upon it; then will the Pope be forced to fly from place to place, and soon after will there be no more such Cattle in the World.

I have recited these Sayings because they are delivered with so much Assurance, to the end, that if the Author shall be found mistaken, People may learn not to be dismay'd with such bold and vain Prognostications, and that all Artists may hence-forwards express themselves with greater Caution and Modesty; for tho' God governs Inferiours by Superiours, and the Stars may seem to denounce such or such Judgments or Calamities impending, yet oft-times the Astrologer is mistaken in reading the Characters of Heaven; and at other times as God still reserves an over-ruling Power to himself, so after the Denunciation of Judgments it comes to pass, that by the Obstinacy and growing Wickedness, or the Repentance or Amendment of a Nation or People, the said Judgments are hastned, aggravated, and rendred more sharp; or on the other side, protracted, alleviated, remitted, and sometime wholly removed; and therefore the best way will be, without too much amusing our selves about things future, to apply ourselves to our present Duties, and to leave secret things to God, who only truly knows them; for the Understanding of Man is veil'd, and most of his Predictions are but Dreams and Fancies, the old Proverb being most true:

'Mongst all that Foretelling professe,
He's the best Prophet, best can guess.

The Prophecy.

When One, and Six, and Eight, are join'd to Four,
Then England do's a grievous Loss deplore;
Her setting Sun, makes many watry Eyes,
Whil'st C. goes down, and J. in place do's Rise.

The Explanation.

This plainly Intimates the year 1685. in which King Charles II died on the sixth of February, whose Death caused a General Sorrow; and this is likewise intimated by C's going down, and J. rising in its Place; as his being succeeded by King James.

The Prophecy.

Now Rome is pleas'd, and Laughs aloud,
Her Lorusts into Albion croud;

The

The Popish Brother gains his wish,
And at the Laws do's make a pish,
Thinks all sure; but time will come
When he again must Pack from home.

The Explanation.

This Intimates the late King's coming to the Crown, and the Encouragement Popery (to the joy of Rome) found under him: by the flocking of the Locusts is meant, the Friars, Monks and Jesuits, who came in Swarms into this Land, as well Strangers as Natives; but the latter end hints at what afterwards ensued, viz. his second going out of the Kingdom.

The Prophecy.

When Five is rank'd with One, and Six, and Eight,
Such Stirs you'll hear, that Miscief will create;
Wild Tumults of a War is rumour'd round,
But it the unhappy Authors do's Confound
Grand Councils back the Lyon to go on,
Till M. and A. and many are undone:
The Gown more cruel than the Sword do's prove,
No Tears, nor Cries, can any Pity move;
Both Scots and English sadly feel the blow,
And suffer in their Leaders Overthrow.

The Explanation.

This directly points at the Invasion of the Duke of Monmouth and Earl of Argile, in the year 1685; which Date is made out in the first Line, and the two Letters of their Titles set down; also the Slaughter and Execution of a great number of their Partakers who suffered in Scotland and England, especially, upon Jeffery's cruel Expedition into the West, where about 400 poor Country-men and others, were Hanged up at divers Places, and being Quartered, their Quarters were set upon Poles all along the Road-sides, &c.

The Prophecy.

Made Proud by late Succeſs, now Jehu like,
J. does drive on, and at Religion ſtrike;
To ancient Laws, there now is no regard,
But he that can ſupplant 'em has reward.
To throw the Church down, he the Pillars tries,
But not like Sampſon, gains his Enterprize:
They ſtand too firm to be remov'd,
And by the People are belov'd;
So that in this, he'll loſe his hope,
To pleaſe himſelf, and more the Pope.

The Explanation.

This points at the Diſorders of the late Reign, when Popery was coming in by head and Shoulders, but thruſt out again Arſe-backwards, by the Oppoſition it found to Eſtabliſh itſelf: the Pillars mentioned in it, ſeems to ſignifie the Seven Biſhops, who were Impriſoned in the Tower by King James, and afterward tryed at the Kings-Bench-bar, barely for preſenting him with a Petition to ſhow their Reaſon why they could not read his Declaration, For Liberty of Conſcience, in Churches, during Divine Service.

The Prophecy.

Now ſtrange News is rumoured abroad, to the great Terror and Affrightment of many, but to the Joy and Comfort of others. Thoſe that had laid deep deſigns to ruin others, meet with ſtrong diſappointments, and in the midſt of their ſecurity, are utterly fruſtrated: The Engliſh Maſtiffs get the Scent of the Pope's Bulls, and run open mouth'd to bait them. The Locuſt are ſwept away, and many ſuperſtitious Structures are demoliſhed; old England ſtands up ſtifly for her Rights and Privileges, and thoſe that went about to deſtroy them, ſink under their weight.

The Explanation.

This ſhews the ſtrange Conſternation of the Papiſts and ſuch as had made

made it their buſineſs to undermine and deſtroy the Conſtitution of the Government: The Maſtiffs here ſignifie the Mob, or Multitude, who all along Oppoſed the ſetting up the Maſs-Houſes, and in the the end, utterly demoliſhed them; the reſt is very plain to be underſtood.

The Prophecy.

Now Albion Groaning under great diſtreſs,
From Eaſtern Lands a Prince brings her redreſs:
Eſſence of Orange makes her ceaſe to faint,
And giveth ſtrength to ſhake off her reſtraint.
Now helter-skelter, her Oppreſſors fly;
Pardons, Indulgences, bids Croſſes ſcatter'd lye:
And freed from Thrall by's Courage and Renown,
Two willing Nations do preſent their Crown;
Whilſt thoſe who lately did aſpire ſo high,
More ſcar'd than hurt, do's into Gallia fly.

The Explanation.

This Intimates the Deliſery of our Nation from Popery and Slavery, by the coming of an Eaſtern Prince, which points directly at his preſent Poſtly, being Holland, his Native-country, from whence he came, is Eaſterly, favourable to Relieve us when Popery was juſt breaking in upon us; and for his Valour, Fame, and Renown, had the Crowns of England and Scotland conferred upon him by unanimous Conſent and with great Applauſe.

The Prophecy.

Now Teague begins to bluſter, but anon
You'll hear his Tune turn'd to O Hone, O Hone,
And made to Smart for all the Spoils he took:
A King do's come, who almoſt with a look
Scares the Hibernians, and makes them to ſubmit
Unto ſuch Terms, as he to give thinks fit:
So a long harraſs'd Land from War does Ceaſe,
The Conquering Sword, both brings and gives them Peace.

The Explanation.

This points directly at the reducing of the Irish in Rebellion, by King William, and restoring that Kingdom to Peace and Tranquillity, after the Mischief it had suffered.

The Prophecy.

Now Gallia frowns, but yet her Threats are vain,
That Tyrant, shall by Wars, great Loss sustain.
The British Lyon with his angry Paws,
Shall tear the Lillies, and give Nations Laws:
Whilst the World wonders for to see it done,
And him who Tyranniz'd, for shelter run:
The time is near when Nations shall Combine
To pull him down, who do's their Wreck Design.

The Explanation.

Gallia is the ancient Latin Name of France: The British Lyon signifies the Power and Strength of these Kingdoms, and it's grasping and tearing the Lillies, which are the proper Arms of France, denotes some great Conquest to be gained in that Country, by the undaunted Valour and Conduct of the English, and hints at the Flight of the present French King; but for the more certain event of its coming to pass, that we leave to Time to make out, and with it an Infallable Prediction.

The Prophecy

When the Eagle and the Lyon shall combine
In League with others of the Royal Line;
Then he who Universal Monarchy
So long has aim'd at, shall Defeated be;
His Pride shall humble to the very Dust,
And he shall see what 'tis to be Unjust:
By a strong Purge, he shall be forc'd to cast
Up all that he has swallowed down in haste.
Then like the Crow, who others Feathers had,
When he is stripp'd of them, his Case is bad.

The

The Explanation.

The Eagle is the Arms of the Empire, as the Lyon is part of that of England: Thoſe Nations being now in League together, with many other Confederate Princes againſt the French King, that common Diſturber of the Peace of Chriſtendom, who is ſeemed here to be aimed at, and that he will be very greatly Humbled, and be forced to reſtore what he has Violently and Unjuſtly taken from his Neighbours, or elſe expect a very great Downfal and Eclipſe of his Grandeur.

The Prophecy.

Old Merlin has, as well as I, foretold,
That Sea-wall'd Albion ſhall in Fame ſtill hold
The firſt of Places, and a Scepter ſway,
That ſhall give Laws, and others make obey.
Proud France ſhall truckle, where a Prince ſhall riſe,
In Albion, Vertuous, Valiant, Juſt and Wiſe,
Whoſe Courage courts, and much delights in War,
Who borrows not, but fetches Fame from far:
True Britiſh Vertue he revives in Men,
Makes them at once now Valiant grow again:
Under his Reign, the Fates Decree Encreaſe,
Conqueſts Abroad, which ends in happy Peace.

The Explanation.

This ſeems to be hinted on the preſent Times and Affairs, under his Majeſty's Propitious and Proſperous Reign and Government; his known Valour and Conduct, like a preſaging Comet reſiding in Terror as it were over proud France, to humble, and bring low that Aſpiring Monarch, who has ſtrewed ſo many Lands with Blood and Devaſtation; and after great Atchievements, it hints at a ſettled and happy Peace.

The

The Prophecy.

Fore-telling Stars joyn with a favouring Fate,
And mighty Things they do Prognosticate:
When One comes before Six, Seaven after Nine,
The Lyon shall the Lillies Countermine;
The Moons shall Wane that did so long Encrease,
And they who were Disturbers shall seek Peace.

The Explanation, by C. D. Astrologer.

Many Signs and Planets concur to favour these Kingdoms, and produce Wonders the date of the present Year 1697, is plainly expressed by the third line. The Lyon signifies the Cognizance or Ensign of Great Britain; the Lillies that of France, properly alluding to the Affairs of both Nations. The Moon's Wane prognosticates the Decrease of the Turkish Greatness and Empire, they having three Encreasing Moons for their Ensign. The rest hints at theirs and the French King's suing for Peace.

The Prophecy, by J. P. Astrologer.

In Ninety Seaven great Preparations are,
Embassies towards Peace, and Armies threatning War;
Various Opinions shall possess Mens breasts,
Opinions strange some People now molests;
Contentious Jars and Strifes 'twixt Families,
Storms threaten, but the Danger from us flies,
And Evening-sorrows brings us Morning-joys.

The Explanation.

This seems to hint at discontented Persons, medlers with religious Matters, and things above their Sphear, in the latter part of it, the first being plain; but, after all, when they see their Error, they shall be ashamed of it, and sit down satisfied under a happy Government, joyful and acceptable to all well-affected English-men; promising by the Morning-joy, a flourishing Trade, and store of Coin.

The

The Prophecy, by J. C. Aſtrologer.

The Cedar now does ſpread its lofty Boughs,
And to the Olive ſheltering Warmth allows,
Whilſt the ſtrong Oak wards of the guſt of Wind,
Which Gallia's Æolus for Wrecks deſign'd;
And Flaundria Towns rear up again their heads,
Whilſt Albion's Enſign as their Screen is ſpread;
A King that dares all Foes, maintains the Field,
Whilſt ſhelter'd Nations fight behind his Shield.

The Explanation, by J. C.

The Cedar ſignifies the Emperor of Germany, whoſe Arms is promiſed Succeſs in defence of the Olive, by which the Spaniſh Territories are denoted. The Gallian Æolus is the fluſtering French King threatning Flaunders, but without Succeſs. Albion's Enſigns, or the Engliſh Powers mainly contributing to their Defence, and hindering his Deſigns. The valiant King, here mentioned, can be alluded no better than to his preſent Majeſty, King William, who is the Champion of Chriſtendom.

The Prophecy, by P. S. Aſtrologer.

Now Shipton's Wife much ſtranger Things relate,
Nine confronts Six between One and Eight:
Come ſing of Peace, Wars-trumpets ſoftly ſound,
Riſe Albion now, and look with Joy around;
Plenty ſhall flow, thy Oaken-walls ſhall be,
From threatning Storms, a ſhelter unto thee;
The watry Empire thou ſhalt ſtill command,
And proſperous Fates guard thee by Sea and Land.

The Explanation, by J. P. Aſtrologer.

The ſecond line points at the Year 1698; the two next promiſes Plenty and Peace: by the Oaken-walls, the Ships or Navy Royal that guard this Nation from the Inſults of it's Foes. The watry Empire is the Seas adjoyning, &c. of which the Kings of England have been always Lords; as for the reſt it is plain.

To

The Prophecy.

Come once again, the Book of Fate I'll read,
And find more Happiness is yet Decreed;
Fame's Trumpet sounds from furthest **East** to **West**,
How much the **Northern** Isle is fear'd and blest;
Old **British Valour** risen from its dust,
Compels unwilling **Gallia** to be Just:
No Fraud nor Policy a Nation harms,
Where Virtue guides, and a just Quarrel arms;
Religion now in splendor does appear,
And all that's gracious smiles upon this Year.

The Explanation, by **D. S.** Astrologer.

This seems to be pretty plain, and needs not much Explanation: as for British Valour, it signifies the Ancient English Courage, that made our Foes tremble; and submit Vietue, and a just Quarrel, is a good Cause, that always carries Success.

The Prophecy.

Now **Ceres** is grown kind, the bending Fields
The Labouring Husband-man's Contentment yields;
Domestick heats cease, and each one does see
In what his Happiness must chiefly be;
Bring Palms of Calmness; Let each one resign
All Heats, and sit with Joy under his Vine.

The Explanation, by **B. C.** Astrologer.

Peace and Plenty by this is promised; by the Palm the former, and by the Vine the latter; and we wish may conclude this happy Year.

FINIS.